

It is appropriate to begin this series of lectures with the subject of Canada's role in supporting U.N. peacekeeping. Keeping the peace is the primary purpose of the United Nations and is therefore of great significance in itself. I have in mind more especially however that Canada's policies in support of peacekeeping are particularly relevant to an understanding of the Canadian outlook on the world. For reasons which have to do with our geography, our resources and our relatively recent development as an independent state, we have chosen, perhaps unconsciously, to concentrate a good deal of our foreign policy energies in the realm of international organization. It would not be fanciful to suggest that, having few illusions about the past to shape our conception of the national interest, we have tried to frame our policies more fully in terms of future international requirements and responsibilities. It so happens, as well, that to play our distinctive part in the building of international institutions corresponds to the Canadian urge to look outwards, to find, if we can, a counter-weight to the enormous if benign influence of our great neighbour. We have been fortunate moreover to have had some extra margin of wealth and stability to devote to these purposes. If my remarks suggest therefore that Canada's interests often coincide to a degree that is unusual with the efforts of the U.N. to keep the peace, I shall be well satisfied.

Some of you will be accustomed to reading in the press about stalemate, deadlock or failure at the U.N. on the subject of peacekeeping. These reports are, of course, discouraging. Yet they are also partial. They do not reflect the fact that while there is disagreement in New York there is