

The Canadian Government's decision to contribute to the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus had the full support of Parliament, and was approved by Parliament. We realized from the very beginning that this would be a challenging assignment for Canadian troops. Indeed, during the debate in the House of Commons on March 13, our Prime Minister said that it might well be the most difficult which the United Nations had yet accepted and Mr. T.C. Douglas reminded the House that the Canadian people ought to have no illusions about the "hazardous, thankless and discouraging task" which was being undertaken.

Canadians can be very proud of the Royal 22nd Regiment and the Royal Canadian Dragoons who are serving in Cyprus. Our officers and men serving under the United Nations insignia in exceedingly demanding circumstances are bringing great credit to their country through their ability to act with just the right mixture of firmness and restraint.

Supporting Mediator

We must ensure that, by our actions in Canada and by our public statements, we are helping and not hindering the United Nations in the performance of its activities in Cyprus. The mediator, Mr. Sakari Tuomioja, has an extremely complicated task to perform. He is using his best endeavours with the representatives of the Cypriot communities and with the four governments directly concerned to promote "a peaceful solution and an agreed settlement of the problem concerning Cyprus, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations".

Fundamental to the solution of the Cyprus dispute is the restoration of normal inter-communal life on the island. We are attempting to further this end in two main ways: first, by the counsel we are offering to the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus and secondly by our contribution of Canadian soldiers to the United Nations Force who are themselves acting as conciliators at the local level.

All parties to the dispute must recognize that Canada has no special interest to pursue in Cyprus. As I said in the House of Commons on April 6, impartiality is the essence of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. We should not say or do anything at any time which could be construed as favouring one side or the other and thus make the role of our contingent more difficult or add to the delicate responsibilities now being undertaken by the mediator.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations announced on April 28 new steps for increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations Force on Cyprus so as to avoid if possible further outbreaks and improve the prospects of a settlement. The Canadian contingent plays an important part in these plans. In his latest report to the Security Council, the Secretary-General says in part

"In situations as complex as that now prevailing in Cyprus, the worst enemies are suspicion, fear and lack of confidence, breeding, as they so often do, hatred and violence. I believe that it may be useful, therefore, to make public at this particular time a programme of reasonable objectives which all parties should readily find it possible to support. I earnestly hope that on the basis of the