

It is particularly encouraging to note the increased attention which governments and the Secretary-General have given in recent months to the whole question of what the Secretary-General termed, perhaps as a diplomatic understatement, the Organization's "serious financial difficulty".

It had been the Canadian hope that it might be possible to find in the Working Group of 21 a solution to these problems which would have the prospect of achieving a wide degree of acceptability. Unfortunately, this was beyond our reach. However, I think some useful progress was accomplished by the Working Group, which we would hope to see reflected directly or indirectly in decisions to be taken in this Committee in the next few weeks. Certainly our tasks at this Session would have been made more difficult if it were not for the constructive and forthcoming attitudes displayed by most members of the Working Group. In addition, the Assembly should be conscious of and grateful for the untiring efforts of the Secretariat staff concerned, the members of the Bureau and, in particular, its Chairman, Ambassador Adebo, whose labours my Delegation wishes to commend.

Canada submitted a proposal to the Working Group of 21 (Document A/AC.113/2) which my Delegation continues to believe contains elements of a fair and reasonable long-term solution to the problem we face. It can be summarized as follows:

The collective responsibility of the membership of the Organization to finance authorized expenditures incurred by or on behalf of the United Nations in respect of duly approved peace-keeping operations involving armed military forces can be assured most effectively by agreement in advance on what procedures are to be followed and on how expenditures shall be apportioned among members.

Experience has shown that it is desirable at the time of initiating each peace-keeping operation for the Secretary-General to