

There are discussions proceeding between Canada and a number of countries with regard to the proposals for nuclear-free zones...As a member of the NATO alliance we must naturally take into consideration the views of our allies and the interests of the alliance itself... With regard to the proposals for nuclear-free zones in other areas of the world, we have given sympathetic support providing, as I have said before in answer to a question in this House, certain conditions which we believe essential are observed.

The atmosphere at the current Assembly appears calm in the sense that the tensions between the Communist and the non-Communist blocs have eased, thus eliminating one familiar obstacle to constructive action by the world body. But one direct consequence of understanding in one area has been to cause renewed activity in another of no less importance. I refer to race relations, which now emerge as one of the dominant factors in international affairs. The African states are understandably aroused at the failure of their persistent efforts in the United Nations and in the Specialized Agencies to bring about any appreciable change in the policies of South Africa and Portugal. These and other issues of colonialism and racial discrimination are being featured prominently in the Assembly debates. The aims and objectives sought by the African members are shared by almost the whole membership, but there is a substantial area of doubt about some of the measures proposed for achieving their desired ends.

Canada has consistently urged, under this Government, under the preceding Government and under the Government before that, that the membership of the United Nations should be comprehensive in character, and this is the fundamental reason we are opposed to any move to have members expelled from the United Nations. South Africa and Portugal have become the immediate object of such moves, which could have much wider application. There are within the organization other member states whose policies are just as repressive and just as discriminatory as the ill-advised and repugnant policies now being followed by these two countries. In all cases we believe that such policies are more likely to be modified if they are kept under close scrutiny by the United Nations than if the states concerned were to be expelled. Moreover, we believe that all such measures which conform strictly to the letter of the Charter of the United Nations could, unless carefully observed, create a situation resulting in far reaching harm to the United Nations itself....

UN Peace Keeping

I made clear at the United Nations the position of Canada and its determination and desire to see the United Nations strengthened in every possible way, particularly as regards capacity to engage in peace-keeping operations. We have urged other member states to follow the example of countries like Canada, the Scandinavian members and now the Netherlands, which have taken steps to prepare their national forces for emergency service with the United Nations.

We have called for the establishment of a compact military planning team in the Secretariat to assist the Secretary-General in the conduct of peace-keeping operations involving military personnel and equipment. We have offered