

But there is one role we as a middle power can play, which you, or any great power, on the whole cannot, and which is assuming growing significance in the preservation of peace and stability. I refer to international peace keeping.

As result of the paralysis of the Security Council, unfortunately for obvious political reasons a feature of United Nations history almost since its inception, it has not been possible for the great powers, including the United States, to assume collectively responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security as envisaged by the authors of the Charter of the United Nations.

Peace Role of Middle Powers

In a parallel development, we have seen military technology place in the hands of the great powers destructive power of such unprecedented might that it has become a primary objective to prevent great-power involvement in the many regional disputes which have been an inevitable consequence of the social, political and economic upheavals of the post-war period. The combination of these two factors has had the effect of elevating international peace keeping of an ad hoc nature to one of the imperatives of our time. It is a responsibility which has devolved mainly on the more responsible middle powers, usually acting under the auspices of the United Nations. It has led Canada into active participation in virtually every United Nations peace-keeping operation, and today our armed forces are serving in Kashmir, Indochina, Palestine, Gaza, the Congo, Yemen and, most recently, Cyprus. It has been demonstrated that countries such as Canada are able to make quite disproportionate contributions to peace and security in relation to their population and wealth.

Because it is a requirement which will have to be met until the permanent members of the Security Council can co-operate in discharging the functions envisaged for them in the Charter, we intend to do everything within our means to assist in the development of more effective arrangements for this kind of international activity. As we played our part in the United Nations Force in the latest peace-keeping venture in Cyprus, we never lost sight of the objective of strengthening the United Nations peace-keeping capacity. I am sure that this is a goal upon which there is complete agreement between Canada and the United States. The United States has a proud record of assistance in the preservation of the peace but, by reason of the difference in our international responsibilities, it is another kind of record from our own. I believe it is clear that the efforts of Canada and the United States in helping to preserve world peace have been complementary.

Parallel with the growth of a distinctive Canadian role in peace keeping, there have of course been many occasions when Canada joined with other countries to perform a task of conciliation in a given international crisis. We are moving into a more active phase in the conduct of foreign policy where there may be differences of emphasis and of timing between Canadian and U.S. policies. In the long run, as most Americans recognize, an individual Canadian foreign policy, based on a fundamental unity of purpose with the United States, makes a contribution to the conduct of international affairs from which the United States and the world community