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Text of an Address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, to a Joint Meeting of Both Houses of the Parliament of Canada on May 26, 1964.

From the earliest years of the United Nations, Canada has been one of the most stalwart supporters both of the general activities and of the peace-keeping operations of the organization. The first of the peace-keeping forces, the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East, was largely a result of the efforts of your Prime Minister, Mr. Lester Pearson, who was then foreign minister, and this remarkably successful operation, which was initiated by him in the General Assembly, has shown the way and set out the guiding lines for all subsequent United Nations operations of this kind.

Besides their gallant service in Korea, officers and men of the Canadian armed forces have been a vital part of the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East, of the forces in the Congo and now in Cyprus, and have, in addition, played an important role in the observer operations in the Middle East, in Kashmir and in Yemen. In the Middle East, the Canadian reconnaissance squadron helps to keep the peace on a long and vital stretch of the desert frontier between Israel and the United Arab Republic, and units of the Canadian Army also run the supply and maintenance depot of the Force. The first Commander of UNEF was a Canadian, Lieutenant-General Burns, who served the United Nations with great distinction. In the Congo, where the United Nations military force will be withdrawn fully by June 30 of this year, the Royal Canadian Signals have provided the communications which are the nerve system of the United Nations Force which, for the last four years, has been stationed all over that vast country. Officers of the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force have held many key staff positions in the headquarters, and the present United Nations Chief of Staff in the Congo is a Canadian officer who has served the United Nations with great courage and ability. A Canadian air unit formed part of the United Nations Security Force in West Irian (West New Guinea) and provided valuable assistance in an operation which relied heavily on air communications. In Yemen, the Royal Canadian Air Force is the communications link which not only provides all internal transportation between the various posts of the Mission and also the sole means of communication and transport between the Mission and the outside world. In Cyprus, the Canadian contingent, the Royal 22nd Regiment and the Royal Canadian Dragoons, was the first to arrive in the island after the adoption of the Security Council resolution of March 4, and to join with the British troops already in the island to take up, under United Nations command, the immensely difficult task which the Security Council has given us. The Canadian contingent is now responsible for the vital sector of the island north of Nicosia to the port of Kyrenia.

It is clear from this very fine record of Canadian participation in every stage of the development and operation of United Nations peace keeping that successive Canadian Governments have shown the greatest understanding and support of these pioneer efforts. This is why Canada has been one of the foremost exponents of the principle and practice of stand-by units for United Nations use. I could have no better opportunity than this occasion to pay my very warm tribute to the Canadian Government and people for the leading role they have taken in these United Nations activities, which are of immense importance to the whole world and to our future. I would add that I know very well that such activities often present great difficulties for governments. It is not easy for any government to lend its soldiers to an international organization and to put