

dedication. We believe that both practical measures and guidelines will have to be dealt with on an equal-priority basis by the Special Committee and its working group. Both are of importance to the efficient and effective functioning of United Nations peacekeeping forces. At a time when peacekeeping is so much in the public eye, this Organization must make an especial effort to resolve many of those problems which, in the past, have complicated the implementation of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

3. CYPRUS

Ambassador William H. Barton, Permanent Representative of Canada at the United Nations, outlined the Canadian position on the question of Cyprus. In his statement to the Plenary of the General Assembly on November 9, 1977, he touched on the steady interest of the Secretary-General in the problems of Cyprus and the important participation of Canada in the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Referring to the visit by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to Greece, Cyprus and Turkey as well as recent discussions in Ottawa between Mr. Jamieson and Mr. Okcum, Foreign Minister of Turkey, Ambassador Barton stressed the desire that renewed intercommunal talks would soon occur through the good offices of the Secretary-General. Parts of the Canadian statement follow:

The Canadian Delegation, while sometimes disheartened by the seeming intractability of the problems in Cyprus, has been encouraged by at least one consideration. This is that both sides seem to be agreed that the United Nations can usefully be involved in the process of finding an accommodation. In this connection, we have noted that the Secretary-General continues to take a close personal interest in the problems of Cyprus. Canada's interest in the Cyprus question stems partly from general concern with the maintenance of peace and security in the eastern Mediterranean. It stems also from concern for the plight of a fellow member of the Commonwealth. The principal focus of Canada's involvement remains, however, the presence on the island, for the fifteenth consecutive year, of a Canadian contingent as part of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. A total of over 20,000 Canadian soldiers have now served in Cyprus and many have served several tours of duty there.

In the Security Council debate last June on the renewal of the mandate for UNFICYP, the Canadian representative made reference to two aspects of the Cyprus question on which some movement might be possible. The first was the possibility that the Nicosia International Airport might be reopened for normal traffic. The second was the possibility that Varosha might once again be resettled. We have been pleased to note that references to such a possible resettlement have been included in speeches at this General Assembly by representatives of both Cypriot communities.

Mr. President, in their contributions to this debate, representatives of both communities have referred to the underlying problems of their troubled land. Foreign Minister Rolandis has rightly evoked the Turkish military intervention of 1974 and the suffering which has been caused thereby. In this connection, the question of "disappeared persons" is a matter of great concern to the Canadian Delegation and, indeed, to the Canadian people. In turn, Mr. Denktash has referred - equally