

Africa or the Mediterranean, if not contained quickly, can have as great an impact on our lives as an outbreak of hostilities in the more familiar trouble spots of direct concern to NATO.

Some form of international peace keeping will be necessary for many years to come and, while we hope and have, indeed, urged, that a permanent international force will be established, we realize that we are still far from achieving this goal. Meanwhile, we hope countries eligible for peace keeping will consider earmarking units of their regular armed forces for UN service; we favour the establishment of the necessary defence planning within national military establishments and the UN Secretariat; and we have proposed an exchange of experience amongst interested governments on the special military problems that arise in peace-keeping operations. To this end, we expect to hold a working-level meeting in Canada later this year where the countries with past experience in peace keeping can pool their experience so that we shall have available for future operations sources of co-ordinated information on the practical military problems which have been encountered by the UN forces in the Middle East, the Congo and Cyprus.

I believe each member of our alliance has a direct interest in encouraging peace keeping to become a recognized part of the international scene. In this we all have our individual role to play. Some of us may be able to earmark forces as we and our Scandinavian and Dutch friends have done. Others may be able to provide the logistic support to enable international forces to reach their destination quickly, as the U.S.A. has done over the years. All of us have the duty of supporting those operations fully in the UN and of contributing our due share to their cost.

Cyprus

As you know, Canada took a leading part in support of the establishment of the UN Force in Cyprus, and has been contributing what is now the largest contingent in the Force. Canada has also been paying all the expenses of its contingent. We knew before accepting participation in the Force that this would be a demanding assignment and that there might be no early solution to the tense and dangerous situation in Cyprus. But so far it has been possible to contain an explosive situation, which might have led to a major outbreak of hostilities involving two NATO allies. It may be debated whether differences over basic political issues have or have not been narrowed. At least an atmosphere has been created in which negotiations can take place and the situation on the island has been held in check. In all this the UN Force has played a magnificent role.

There is, perhaps, one further word I should say about Cyprus. As it happens, both the UN and NATO find themselves involved in this situation. NATO's concern is not with the situation in Cyprus proper or with the future arrangements on that island. Its concern is with the dispute which the Cyprus problem has caused between two