

Such an accommodation must be found. If it is to be found, there will need to be a willingness to make concessions on all sides. I am confident that, in the same spirit of conciliation which has attended the opening phase of this Assembly, the necessary concessions can and will be made. Agreement on this issue is vital to the future of our organization, but I believe it will also have implications beyond the United Nations. It could be as important as the nuclear test-ban treaty as a means of broadening the basis of international understanding. For it is surely in the interest of the great powers that the international community should be free to act in situations which might otherwise have the effect of extending the area of confrontation between them.

The search for agreement must be initiated at once and pursued vigorously. We welcome the steps which have already been taken by the Secretary-General to this end. We look forward to the early advancement of the more restricted discussions now under way, to the point where the Working Group of 21 can be called into action. We believe that, at that stage, the detailed exploration of this issue which has been carried out by the members of the Working Group over the past year will prove to be of value.

The Canadian objective in these discussions will be to achieve an accommodation, not a capitulation. I would not wish to leave this subject, however, without affirming once again our belief that the principle of shared responsibility must form the basis of any ultimate consensus. We believe, in particular, that the responsibility for meeting the costs of operations such as Cyprus, the need for which has been acknowledged by the Security Council, must be shared by all member states, rather than left to a few.

With regard to the maintenance of peace and security, I wish to emphasize as strongly as I can that it is not enough for the United Nations to rely on the goodwill of a few. It must be able to count on the response and the responsibility of the whole membership.

I believe that there will continue to be a need for peace-keeping operations in the foreseeable future. I say this because we have witnessed great political and social changes in our world which will take time to work themselves out and which cannot be counted upon to do so without some element of upheaval. Meanwhile, there is an obligation which the Charter places upon us to settle our disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force against one another. We also have an obligation to carry forward our pursuit of peace and security by working towards our agreed objective of general and complete disarmament.

The events of the past few months have made it clear that the central issue in the disarmament field at this Assembly is the need to limit the spread of nuclear weapons. When I speak in terms of events of the past few months, I have naturally in mind the nuclear test conducted by Communist China on October 16. We deeply regret that the Chinese Communist Government should have chosen to disregard world opinion in such deliberate fashion. We also look upon this development as profoundly disquieting for the future. If it does nothing else, I would hope that it will impart fresh urgency to our efforts to reach agreement to limit the spread of independent military nuclear capability.