

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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UN Peace-Keeping Operations in Cyprus

Notes for a Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, to the Canadian Club in Brantford, Ontario, on March 19, 1964.

I am particularly pleased to have this opportunity to speak to the Canadian Club in Brantford this evening. Last Thursday I had occasion to speak in London and to express my concern about United Nations involvement in peace-keeping operations just as the Cyprus situation was reaching a very critical stage. This past week has been one of intense diplomatic activity -- not without elements of risk -- as the United Nations moved to establish an international military force in Cyprus.

A week ago this evening I met with the United Nations Secretary-General in New York to reassure him of Canada's willingness to play its full part in establishing in Cyprus an effective United Nations force to keep the peace. On the following day we were in direct touch with other countries whose participation was required to make it possible for the Secretary-General to state that a United Nations peace-keeping force had been constituted. Their response was prompt and favourable, providing a solid basis for Canadian participation once Parliament had approved it. We are embarking on this new responsibility not only with the British but also contingents from Sweden, Finland and Ireland, with whom we shall be proud to serve.

Preparations for UN Action in Cyprus

The Canadian Government was deeply concerned about the delays which occurred even after the Security Council had adopted a resolution on March 4 calling for the establishment of the force. We watched with anxiety the steady deterioration of the situation in and around Cyprus. We pressed vigorously for the clarification of the United Nations mandate and the operating conditions for the force, including its financing.

Canadian action in this regard was nothing less than what the complex situation required of a country with long experience of peace-keeping operations of this kind. To provide a reasonable opportunity for the success of the operation and to encourage other governments to support it actively, we believed it necessary and desirable to reach a satisfactory understanding with the Secretary-General and with the parties directly involved in the Cyprus question on the role which the United Nations would be assuming.