

prospects for the achievement of a just and lasting settlement within a united Cyprus and the attainment of well-deserved peace and prosperity on the island. Canada's regret at this unhappy situation is much the greater because of our long-standing involvement in the UN peacekeeping force designed precisely to facilitate a solution to the Cyprus problem, not imposed unilaterally but developed by, and having the agreement of, all parties.

We note Turkish-Cypriot leaders have expressed the view that the good offices of the UN Secretary General and negotiations must continue. A tangible and constructive manifestation of this intention would be the withdrawal of the unilateral declaration by the leaders and their agreement to resume active intercommunal negotiations at the highest level as soon as possible.

In the meantime, Canada joins the UN Secretary General and other states in calling on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and to avoid any provocation that could result in a further deterioration of the situation. As an important troop contributor to UNFICYP, we call on all concerned to respect fully the mandate and the personnel of this UN peacekeeping force. This is the minimum requirement for the continued effectiveness of UNFICYP.

Mr. President, even in this current difficult situation, I believe there are constructive steps the Council could take now. It might wish to ask the Secretary General to carry out urgent soundings and report back to the Council within a short period. This report could serve as a basis for further consideration and action by the Council.

Canada continues to support most strongly the efforts of the Secretary General to promote a negotiated and lasting settlement. These efforts are all the more important in the new situation which now confronts us and we urge the Council to again endorse them. We call on other member states to offer their full support to enhance the authority of the Secretary General in overcoming the obstacles to a final settlement of a problem which has been with us all too long.

Thank you, Mr. President.