

PEACEKEEPING

Let me turn now to those tasks which require our collective understanding and goodwill: first, the general subject of peacekeeping.

A year has gone by since this Assembly established its committee to study all aspects of peacekeeping. A year has passed, too, since it was decided that the financial difficulties of the Organization should be overcome by voluntary contributions from the whole membership. The Canadian Government regrets that on both these issues the past 12 months have seen little advance.

Little progress has been made in resolving the financial problems of the United Nations. Perhaps some governments have been awaiting the outcome of the study of the Committee of 14. This report is now before us, and I hope that those who have not yet contributed will do so now.

But perhaps even more important, in the long term, than the need to meet the financial deficit, is the failure of the committee we set up last year to come to grips with the task of completing its comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations. It is easy to explain away this failure as an aftereffect of the crisis which seized the Assembly two sessions ago. But we have had a year to think things over. Surely it is time that we moved to resolve this problem.

There are a small number of members which do not share the view of the majority about the nature and value of the contribution that the United Nations has made, and can continue to make, through its peacekeeping activities. My government believes that the views of this minority must be respected, even if we do not share their views. We appreciate that we may have to accept the limitations thus imposed, particularly with respect to the positions held by some of the great powers on the principle of collective financial responsibility. But even if these limitations are accepted, there remains much that can be accomplished. Let me suggest some examples of what the Canadian Delegation believes can be done.

First: We think that now is the time to respond to the Secretary-General's proposal of 1964 that studies should be made on the means of improving preparations for peacekeeping operations.

Second: We think that it is time for the Security Council and its Military Staff Committee to re-examine the possibilities for negotiating agreements with member states for the provision of armed forces, assistance, and facilities to be made available to the Council in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.