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INITIATIVES FOR PEACE

Members of the Council of the World Veterans Federation were welcomed to Ottawa on May 4 by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, for the first meeting in Canada, "an event", the Minister said, "with which the Government is proud to be associated". The following is a partial text of his remarks:

...I am the more pleased to be here tonight because I am able to announce a decision by the Government of Canada, subject to the approval of Parliament, to make a grant of \$5,000 towards the establishment by the World Veterans Federation of an international peace-keeping information centre. I can think of no organization more appropriately fitted to initiate and manage such a centre, which would have as its purpose to act as a clearing-house on peace-keeping research and to stimulate international interest in this vital subject. These are objectives with which Canadians, both inside and outside the Government, have been and continue to be closely identified. Indeed, it would not surprise me if individual Canadians were to make a significant contribution to the success of the centre. We have built up a good deal of knowledge on this subject... and I am confident that much of this could be put at your disposal. It has not always been easy for scholars and others who may be interested to know where to turn for information about peace keeping. The centre will help to remedy this lack, and I look forward to receiving reports about its work.

You will be the first to acknowledge, however, that the measure of your success in this field will depend to some extent on the future of peace keeping itself. Will the states members of the United Nations

permit that organization to continue to develop techniques of peace keeping? Will regional organizations find means of policing relations between their members? Or will this job again revert to powerful nations, whether bent on conquest or determined to resist aggression? For it is certain that the risks of international conflict are too great for nothing to be done when conflict begins. If international restraints are inadequate, then we must expect that control will be imposed by those with the strength to do so, notwithstanding the attendant dangers of confrontation between those powers themselves.

NEED FOR COMPROMISE

You will not expect me to provide the answers to these questions which are being debated now at the United Nations and by all those who follow these matters. There are no easy answers, but I think it can be said that the prospects of working out compromises between the various points of view represented at the United Nations are somewhat better than they were when I last spoke to the World Veterans Federation almost a year ago in Geneva. Most governments now recognize the need for compromise. There is a new readiness to re-examine old assumptions, to re-appraise the political forces at work, to look more critically at the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly. It has been tacitly accepted that disagreement over issues of principle shall not be permitted to interrupt the practice of peace keeping. The operations in Cyprus, in Kashmir, and on the borders of Israel continue. Indeed, the UN was able to mount and carry to a successful conclusion a new operation after the