

said at the time "the nuclear threat to our security may be dramatic and awe-inspiring but we cannot neglect the more prosaic but lethal threat from the use of conventional force". For after all, since the end of World War II, no one has lost his life as a result of the use of nuclear weapons but many thousands have been killed in conflicts involving the use of conventional weapons. The fact is that one of the few useful tools that the international community has developed to deal with the problem of conventional conflicts is peacekeeping. There is, alas, little prospect that we are rid of crises in the world giving rise to the use of conventional force and, consequently, we must strive to improve substantially the means by which these crises can be contained and ultimately resolved.

The preservation of peace and the promotion of international security was one of the primary motives behind the founding of the United Nations in 1945. It was hoped that the U.N., with the provision for collective security arrangements in Chapter VII of the Charter, would be able to take action to deal with any threat to peace or act of aggression. However, within a few years of the founding of the United Nations, it became apparent that the Cold War and the consequent disputes among the great powers rendered ineffective the collective security system of the U.N. At the same time, it became apparent that there were crises, which were not serious enough to warrant enforcement action under Chapter VII of the Charter but were sufficiently serious to require intervention by the U.N. with the consent of the parties to the disputes. It was out of this situation that the concept of peacekeeping began to take shape in the immediate post-war years -- the idea of internationally sponsored and neutral bodies of men drawn primarily from small and middle powers to separate disputants and to supervise ceasefires.

From the outset, Canada has played a major role in the development of peacekeeping. We recognize its importance in the preservation of international peace and security. Consequently it is a continuing objective of Canadian foreign policy to help strengthen the authority of the U.N. in its capacity as a peacekeeping agency. Canadians have participated in almost all U.N. peacekeeping operations to date -- in Egypt, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Korea, India, Pakistan, West New Guinea, the Congo, Yemen and Nigeria. Today about 1,600 Canadians are serving in five U.N. peacekeeping operations, the most important of which are in the Middle East and Cyprus. As a result of this lengthy and intensive experience Canada has become recognized as the peacekeeper *par excellence* with an international reputation for objectivity and professional competence.

I said a moment ago that the peacekeeping operation on Cyprus is one of the two most important peacekeeping