



CANADA

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## PEACE-KEEPING - A STANDING COMMITMENT FOR CANADA

*In a speech at the fifth annual International Air Forces Night at Windsor, Ontario, on June 26, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, discussed as follows the growth of peace-keeping machinery both inside and outside the United Nations:*

...Lately, we have seen in the United Nations and in the world generally a revived interest in the subject of peace keeping. Cyprus, quite naturally, brought the concept, and, indeed, its practical application, very much to the forefront of international attention. The grave crisis in and around that troubled island sharply reminded United Nations members about their responsibilities for giving firm support to the organization. It also exposed the perils of improvised peace.

### SHIFTING FOUNDATION FOR PEACE

A few members of the United Nations seem to have forgotten that it was established in 1945 primarily to maintain peace and security. At the time of its inception, a time when savage war was raging on many fronts, the Charter framers had as their main objective to establish a security system which would offer all nations a bulwark against the suffering and destruction of war. They knew that victory in the Second World War would be meaningless unless they could devise a durable system for ensuring future peace. A system was devised. Chapter VII of the Charter contains the basic provisions. But unfortunately it rested on a shifting foundation - the unanimity of the great powers. The early discussions about these Charter provisions, which took place in the Security Council and in the Military Staff Committee, soon revealed that the security system had

settled in quicksand, the mire of great-power manoeuvring, and particularly of Soviet obstructionism.

### NATO AND OTHER IMPROVISATIONS

By the late forties, it appeared unlikely that the Charter system would work effectively in major crises, even though some modest achievements were recorded in the early days of the United Nations. The weaknesses which were exposed, mainly under the stress of the Cold War, caused non-Communist powers to seek greater security under defensive treaties. NATO was one result. In a sense it was an improvisation made necessary by the political realities in the United Nations at that time.

Another improvisation was needed at the time of the Korean aggression. There was no doubt about the cause of this breach of the peace, but, as the war continued, the United Nations had to improvise its response, because of threats from the Soviet Union to block further action.

These improvisations were contained in a set of resolutions under the heading "Uniting for Peace". They were only adopted by the General Assembly by a large majority. Whatever may have been said about them by Soviet opponents, they did not constitute a violation of the Charter and, in essence, were wholly within its spirit.

After Korea, it was clear that the United Nations could not go back to the doldrums of the late forties, when a suspicious and aggressive Soviet Government had placed one obstacle after another in the way of every constructive move to make the United Nations effective in the peace-keeping field. Most members were determined to develop the United Nations capacity to respond to situations which

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