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AN ERA OF LIMITED PEACE

The following is the text of a speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, to the Empire Club in Toronto on April 2:

...In a thought-provoking lecture on March 24, Mr. Adlai Stevenson suggested that the world had moved beyond the policy of containment to a policy of cease-fire and peaceful change. He called it an era of "limited peace". He asked some penetrating questions about what can and must be done to ensure that the nations pursue the path of peaceful settlement of disputes and situations.

The attitude of states toward war is all important in this regard. Governments and people everywhere must re-examine critically the notions that some wars are justified and that warfare can be limited. The plain fact of contemporary history — which most states see clearly — is that beyond every brushfire conflict lies nuclear conflagration and world-wide devastation. A threat to the peace in any part of the world poses a threat to all nations which none can take lightly.

This stark fact underlines the urgency of strengthening the sinews of peace, of improving the international means for dealing effectively with the sparks of armed incident and the dangers of unresolved dispute. The United Nations is one means, but how effective is it?

The Cyprus situation presents the United Nations and its members with some pressing problems of far-reaching importance and implication. Some of them are fraught with immediate risks to the maintenance of peace. Others hold potential threat for the effective existence of the United Nations in future. Canada has been deeply concerned about

these developments — not only in recent weeks but as the underlying dilemma has deepened in the United Nations during the past few years. Our relief about small gains made has not diverted our attention from the large issues which undermine the United Nations capacity to respond to the recurring demands of peace.

A DISAPPOINTING RESPONSE

The Cyprus situation raised such a demand yet, when the call came for the United Nations to establish a peace force in Cyprus, the response from member governments was on the whole disappointing. Canada was among the first countries to be approached for assistance. We were the first country to commit itself definitely to provide troops. Other nations joined us in this move and I pay warm tribute to Sweden, Finland and Ireland, whose contingents are to serve with Canadians in the Cyprus operation. I make special mention of the United Kingdom, which is continuing under the United Nations flag to contribute substantially to the cause of peace in that troubled island.

Why was the response restricted in size and slow in execution? If we examine some of the factors, we may detect some basic causes of weakness and see ways of strengthening the United Nations capacity to meet peace-keeping demands.

At the United Nations, the general attitude toward the Cyprus crisis was one of hesitation. The great powers were divided on the issue — but this was not unusual. A large number of countries appeared indifferent to the deterioration of a situation which threatened to explode into international conflict. A few states wanted to take advantage of the situation

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