

Security Council

The Council is too passive. All too frequently it turns a blind eye to situations which clearly constitute a threat to international peace and security. It continues to ignore its responsibility under the Charter to try to head off such threats before they arise. In my statement before this Assembly a year ago, I expressed the belief that informal and private exchanges between political leaders represented on the Council would help it to fulfil its responsibilities. In all candour I must report that we found that some of our colleagues were opposed to this approach. However, I continue to be convinced of the value of the concept of periodic meetings of the Council at ministerial level. Such meetings could give the Council the high-level political direction that is essential if it is to take the initiative in preserving peace when conflict is anticipated, as well as restoring it when conflict has occurred. Mr. President, I know that I am not alone in expressing these views, and I urge those members of the Council, present and future, who share them, not to give up their efforts to have the Council fulfil its role as envisioned in the Charter.

I also think that it is time to consider again the size of the Council. In 1965, when the membership was increased from 11 to 15, there were 118 members of the UN. Now there are 150. Many states which would contribute well to the work of the Council must wait a generation before they can hope to serve.

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs also reviewed the Special Session on Disarmament, peacekeeping and peacemaking, economic and social questions and the Law of the Sea. The following paragraphs are portions of Mr. Jamieson's UN speech on the various topics.

Disarmament

The Disarmament Session adopted by consensus a program of action that clearly identified the most urgent negotiating tasks, including vigorous pursuit of measures to curb the nuclear arms race, the conclusion of a nuclear test ban treaty, and negotiation of an effective agreement on chemical weapons. Proposals made by my Prime Minister, and by other leaders, are under active discussion in many capitals. The Session's final document is the most authoritative statement of views, aspirations and objectives ever produced on the subject of arms limitation and reduction.

Peacekeeping and Peacemaking

Over the years, Canada has joined many other countries in supporting UN peacekeeping missions. We have supplied military or other personnel for every UN peacekeeping force which has taken the field, including the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) established last March. The Council acted promptly and wisely in deciding to insert a UN force into the troubled situation which has prevailed in Southern Lebanon. The organization and subsequent conduct of UNIFIL is a tribute not only to the skilful diplomacy of the Secretary-General and his staff but to the readiness of member states from most regions of the world to help with UN peacekeeping. We cannot overlook, however, that UNIFIL has encountered problems in fulfilling all the terms of its mandate, and that the Lebanese Government has not yet been able fully to restore its sovereignty. The future success of UNIFIL will depend on the