

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 63/1 Statement by the Permanent Representative of
Canada, Mr. Paul Tremblay, on May 29, 1963, to
the Fourth Special Session of the UN General
Assembly, on the financing of United Nations
Operations for the Maintenance of Peace.

Mr. Chairman:

The fourth special session of the United Nations General
Assembly has, in the words of the Secretary-General, been called
to deal with what is perhaps the most serious problem facing the
organization today. It is serious not simply because the continua-
tion of two very important peace-keeping operations is at stake
but, above all, because the ability of the United Nations to fulfil
one of its primary Charter obligations - the maintenance of inter-
national peace and security - is imperilled.

For reasons which are understandable, if regrettable, the
United Nations has been very slow in facing up to this issue. The
past has been characterized by a series of unsatisfactory ad hoc
measures and palliatives which have served to delay but not to
avoid the crisis that now confronts us. We believe that there has
been some progress towards a solution during the past two years.
The International Court has given and the Assembly has accepted
the clear advisory opinion that the costs of peace-keeping are
costs of the organization. Most of the member states now recognize
that peace-keeping is a collective responsibility of the whole
membership and, stemming from this, the unsatisfactory situation
with respect to arrears is beginning to improve. It is particularly
encouraging to note the increased attention which governments and
the Secretary-General have given in recent months to the whole
question of what the Secretary-General termed, perhaps as a diplomatic
understatement, the organization's "serious financial difficulty".

It had been the Canadian hope that it might be possible to
find in the Working Group of 21 a solution of these problems which
would have the prospect of achieving a wide degree of acceptability,
Unfortunately, this was beyond our reach. However, I think some
useful progress was accomplished by the Working Group, which we
would hope to see reflected directly or indirectly in decisions to
be taken in this Committee in the next few weeks. Certainly, our
tasks at this session would have been made more difficult if it
were not for the constructive and forthcoming attitudes displayed
by most members of the Working Group. In addition, the Assembly
should be conscious of and grateful for the untiring efforts of
the Secretariat staff concerned, the members of the Bureau and, in
particular, its Chairman, Ambassador Adebo, whose labours my Delega-
tion wishes to commend.

Canada submitted a proposal to the Working Group of 21
(Document A/AC.113/2) which my Delegation continues to believe con-
tains elements of a fair and reasonable long-term solution to the
problem we face. It can be summarized as follows:

The collective responsibility of the membership of the
organization to finance authorized expenditures incurred by or on
behalf of the United Nations in respect of duly approved peace-keeping