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EXCERPTS FROM ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA,  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LESTER B. PEARSON, ON  
ACCEPTING THE 2ND TEMPLE UNIVERSITY WORLD PEACE AWARD  
AT THE FOUNDER'S DINNER OF THE UNIVERSITY'S GENERAL  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 2, 1965

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. . . . Keeping the peace is the first and most difficult purpose of the United Nations. I have no doubt it will remain the yardstick by which the United Nations stands or falls, however legitimate and even compelling are the economic, social and ethical purposes which it is also called upon to serve. If we cannot manage our affairs peacefully in the short term, our long term goals will never be reached. . . .

We have now reached a critical stage in the development of the U.N.'s peace-keeping capacity. The organization is quite different from what it was in 1945, or in 1950, when it was able to mobilize under U.S. leadership collective resistance to aggression in Korea. The increase in the membership to more than double the original number, the nature of that increase and the diffusion of power amongst several regional groups have led to a corresponding decrease in the influence and authority of the Western states.

Nevertheless, the leadership in peace-keeping has come from the West, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General and with members of the non-aligned group. I would reject, however, the Soviet charge that, in this leadership, we had some special Western axe to grind. Indeed the Assembly approved by large majorities the assessment resolutions establishing collective financial responsibility for the operations in the Middle East and the Congo. What has happened is that since 1962 the balance of the membership has tended to take a more critical view of Great Power disputes over peace-keeping. They have begun to question whether, in the light of this disagreement, complete collective responsibility is often feasible in practice, however desirable it may always be in principle.

The facts of the matter tend to support the doubts expressed about this. There have been five major peace-keeping operations and not one of them has been collectively financed in practice, even though in two cases the World Court itself formally advised that the expenses were a joint responsibility. The loss of vote penalty against offenders has not been applied because these offenders have included two Great Powers and the bulk of the membership was not

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