



CANADA

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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### CANADA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING EFFORTS

Lecture by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the First Series of the Jacob Blaustein Lectures, Columbia University, New York, April 26, 1967.

It is appropriate to begin this series of lectures with the subject of Canada's role in supporting UN peace keeping. Keeping the peace is the primary purpose of the United Nations and is, therefore, of great significance in itself. I have in mind more especially, however, that Canada's policies in support of peace keeping are particularly relevant to an understanding of the Canadian outlook on the world. For reasons which have to do with our geography, our resources and our relatively recent development as an independent state, we have chosen, perhaps unconsciously, to concentrate a good deal of our foreign policy energies in the realm of international organization. It would not be fanciful to suggest that, having few illusions about the past to shape our conception of the national interest, we have tried to frame our policies more fully in terms of future international requirements and responsibilities. It so happens, as well, that to play our distinctive part in the building of international institutions corresponds to the Canadian urge to look outwards, to find, if we can, a counterweight to the enormous, if benign, influence of our great neighbour. We have been fortunate, moreover, to have had some extra margin of wealth and stability to devote to these purposes. If my remarks suggest, therefore, that Canada's interests often coincide to a degree that is unusual with the efforts of the UN to keep the peace, I shall be well satisfied.

Some of you will be accustomed to reading in the press about stalemate, deadlock or failure at the UN on the subject of peace keeping. These reports are, of course, discouraging. Yet they are also partial. They do not reflect the fact that, while there is disagreement in New York, there is action in the Middle East, or in Cyprus, or in Africa, which helps to preserve the peace. On the one hand, the General Assembly has not been able to reconcile the differences which divide member states over questions of principle, but, on the other hand, these same member states have responded to clear and urgent requirements to initiate and to keep in being UN forces and teams to patrol, to supervise and to conciliate.