



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 64/30

Notes from the Remarks of Prime Minister the Right Honourable L.B. Pearson at the Opening of the Meeting of Military Experts to Consider the Technical Aspects of United Nations Peace-Keeping Operations, Ottawa, November 2, 1964.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to welcome you to Ottawa on behalf of the Government of Canada. I am doubly pleased because your meeting to consider the important aspects of United Nations peace-keeping operations is the result of a proposal which I put forward to the United Nations General Assembly last year. At that time, speaking for the Canadian Government, I said:

"We would be happy to share our experience with others who have participated with us in UN peace-keeping operations in the past, as well as with those who might wish to do so in the future.

"To this end, we propose that there should be an examination by interested governments of the problems and techniques of peace-keeping operations."

When I made this proposal I hoped that such an examination might lead to closer co-ordination of stand-by forces for UN service, as well as to better mutual understanding of the techniques of peace keeping. As long ago as 1957, it was my view that we should "pool our experience and our resources so that the next time we, the governments and peoples whom the United Nations represents, will be ready and prepared to act". This is still my view.

I realize, nevertheless, that in these matters we must advance with all deliberate speed. Dag Hammarskjold once put it in these terms:

"World organization is still a new adventure in human history. It needs perfecting in the crucible of experience and there is no substitute for time in that respect."

It is this "crucible of experience" which brings you together today. Your purpose is to exchange views on the basis of common experience in peace keeping, on the vital technical and military aspects of UN operations and, as a result, to put yourselves in a better position to respond to possible future demands for action under the blue flag of the United Nations.