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PEACEKEEPING

Text of Statement to be made by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister of Canada, on Item 33 (Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping Operations in all Their Aspects: Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations) in the Special Political Committee on Wednesday, November 16, 1966.

Mr. Chairman,

The first purpose of the United Nations, as the Charter makes clear, is the maintenance of international peace and security. It was a desire to ensure universal peace, after the world-wide struggle of 1939-1945, which provided the incentive for the establishment of this Organization. This is a consideration which Canada believes it necessary to keep foremost in mind--a consideration of which no Member State can, or should, lose sight.

In our view it is indispensable to the promotion of orderly international relations that we maintain and strengthen the capacity of this Organization to keep the peace. This is of importance to all Member States but particularly, we believe, to the smaller States. It is especially in their interest that reliable security arrangements should exist, arrangements in which they can participate politically and financially. The financial contribution of the smaller States, in fact of all developing countries, may of course be small for it should not place too great a burden upon them. But the contributions of these States, which form the majority of States in our Organization, are an essential element in keeping alive the concept of collective security.

It is, Mr. Chairman, in this broad context, conscious of the purposes and the principles of the Charter, that my Delegation approaches the item before us. The latest report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations is no doubt disappointing to many delegations interested in this question. This is due in our opinion not only to the absence of agreed solutions to fundamental issues, but to the difficulties which the Committee found in coming to grips with these issues. It is true of course that a few delegations, including my own,