



Statements and Speeches

No. 75/37

THE QUESTION OF CYPRUS

A Statement made in the Plenary Meeting of the Thirtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly by Dr. Saul F. Rae, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, on November 13, 1975.

More than 15 months have now passed since the disruptive conflict in Cyprus of July 1974. Canada, with most other members of the international community, is deeply concerned about the lack of progress during the ensuing period towards the achievement of a just and lasting settlement of the problems of Cyprus.

Canada's interest in Cyprus has various facets. Before and since the critical days in July 1974, we have consistently stated our support of the principle of the preservation of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. This continues to be our position to-day. The fact that Cyprus is a member of the Commonwealth adds to our concern about its political future and the welfare of its people.

We are also concerned about Cyprus because of our role as a major troop contributor to the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), established in March 1964 pursuant to the adoption of Resolution 186 by the Security Council. For more than 11 years, Canadian peacekeepers have worked with those from other countries in an effort to prevent hostilities and to create a situation in which arrangements could be worked out that would enable the two communities to live together in peace and harmony. The fact that, through those 11 years, over 17,000 men of Canada's armed forces have, in succession, served in UNFICYP is a demonstration of the measure of Canada's commitment to the cause of peace on the island.

Canada continues to support the original and current objectives of UNFICYP, and is prepared to give substance to this support through its contribution to the peacekeeping efforts of the United Nations. In doing this, however, we feel we have earned a right to look to the parties immediately concerned for some progress towards a solution that would eventually make possible a conclusion of this particular peacekeeping operation. In this connection, I should like to remind this Assembly of the statement made at this session of the General Assembly by the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen. In his address in the general debate on September 22, he made, *inter alia*, the
