

meet in emergency session, a draft of a resolution which proposed that the Secretary-General be asked to appoint a special representative to go out to the area to help establish and maintain contacts among the parties in order to reduce tensions and bring about peaceful conditions in the area.

We were hopeful that action of this kind might be taken by the Council earlier rather than later. It is understandable that the countries in the area wished fully to record their views both at the emergency session and in the general debate at this session. But sooner or later the questions arise: How can the recurrence of hostilities in the Middle East be prevented? How can tensions be reduced? How can peaceful conditions be established?

There has been a great deal of talk before the Council on principles: the principle particularly of withdrawal, the principle of non-acquisition of territory by force. There are differences of interpretation among us as to the language of the Charter on these points. But one thing is certain, that under Article 2 of the Charter all Members have undertaken solemnly to:

"...settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice" -- I repeat, justice -- "are not endangered."

Likewise, all Members have assumed the obligation to refrain in their international relations "from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State". That is common ground among us because we are all committed to the Charter.

In the lengthy private consultations -- to which a number of my colleagues have referred-- we have found common ground also, I believe, on the necessity of a peaceful settlement, or, as it is sometimes called, a political solution, and of the Security Council recommending procedures for the settlement of all aspects of the dispute, including the question of withdrawal, the guaranteeing of freedom of navigation through international waterways, and, of course, the just settlement of ~~the~~ all important refugee question, under Chapter VI of the Charter.

What we have not been able to agree upon completely is the mandate under which a special representative should operate. The important consideration for the Canadian delegation is that the special representative must be able to help bring about the agreement of the parties. We suggested earlier that the special representative might wish to start discussion under a broad mandate which would avoid contentious issues. But if it is easier for him to start these discussions on the basis of precise guidelines or principles of action, we would be perfectly happy to agree on condition that such guidelines or principles are balanced and equitable.