

importance and the usefulness of a United Nations peacekeeping role. But I should be less than candid if I did not admit that Canadians are today less inclined to accept in an unquestioning way the burdens of participation. Their concern springs mainly from the fact that peacekeeping endeavours often seem to do no more than perpetuate an uneasy status quo.

If United Nations peacekeeping activity is to be fully effective, it must be accompanied by a parallel effort on the political level, especially by the parties most directly concerned, to convert the temporary peace that a peacekeeping force is asked to maintain into something more durable. If this is not done, and if those who contribute to peacekeeping roles are faced with indefinite prolongation of their hazardous tasks, I am afraid governments will be less willing to respond to future requests for troops.

The past year has seen two new peacekeeping operations established in the Middle East and the force in Cyprus reinforced. These developments were important in themselves but they are also capable of teaching us lessons for the future. From the Canadian standpoint the operations in the Middle East are working effectively and are making an essential contribution to the maintenance of the ceasefire and disengagement agreements. But equally important, new principles have been established in the process. Participants have been drawn from a broader base than in the past, and a sounder financial foundation for the operations has been laid through a general assessment of the United Nations membership. These innovations have contributed to effective peace-keeping in the Middle East for the present, and will enhance the prospect of more effective peacekeeping in the future.

There are fewer grounds for satisfaction in the case of Cyprus. There, despite the presence of United Nations' peacekeeping forces, fighting has taken place on an unprecedented scale because the long-smouldering political problem remained unresolved. Moreover, it has been demonstrated once again in Cyprus that, without the agreement and co-operation of the disputants, the constructive role of a peacekeeping force is severely circumscribed.

If the usefulness of the United Nations in peace-keeping is to be maintained and expanded, new principles and techniques to strengthen it must be found. The machinery is at hand under the Charter to ensure an effective United Nations response to future peacekeeping needs. The advantages of agreement in advance on how United Nations peace-keeping should be directed and controlled are obvious. The experience of the United Nations Emergency Force could point the way to such agreement or guidelines for peacekeeping