

Soviet foreign policy either in its pursuit of peace or its policy of peaceful co-existence or its support for the United Nations. I look forward to these assurances being reflected in a positive Soviet attitude towards some of the crucial issues in dispute between us that are still awaiting a solution.

There is no doubt in my mind that our aspirations for a more peaceful and more securely ordered world have been set back by the nuclear test which was conducted by Communist China in October. I say this because Canada is one of the countries which has for many years had the technical and economic capacity of manufacturing nuclear weapons but which has deliberately refrained from turning that capacity to other than the peaceful uses of the atom. There are other countries, such as India, which have seen their contribution to world peace lying in the same direction. The Chinese nuclear test seems to me to point up the urgent need for an international agreement or agreements to prevent the further proliferation of nuclear weapons. In bringing about such an agreement, I can see a special role and responsibility for countries which, like Canada, have followed a conscious policy of nuclear self-restraint.

Meanwhile the peacekeeping capacity of the United Nations is at issue. We in Canada have welcomed the evolution of the concept of peacekeeping as a constructive response to the great and often unsettling changes that have come about in the world. We regard peacekeeping as one of the most vital functions of the United Nations and as one reflecting the interests of the world community at large. We have, I think, given ample evidence of the importance we attach to this concept by placing Canadian forces at the disposal of the United Nations for each and every peacekeeping assignment it has undertaken since 1948. In the year which is now drawing to a close Canadian soldiers have again served under the United Nations flag in Cyprus and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing to them, and to the members of Canadian contingents serving elsewhere,