

Inevitably, the new balance of forces in our organization has brought in its wake problems that will need to be met. For my own part, I am confident that they can be met. I say this because it is surely in the interests of all of us that the United Nations should continue to command the widest possible support of those who are involved in the determination of policy in its member states. Clearly, the greater the size of our membership and the more diffuse the interests represented in our deliberations, the more important it becomes that the conclusions we reach and the recommendations we put forward should reflect the broadest possible consensus of views. In this respect, I am encouraged by the new emphasis that is being placed on the instrument of conciliation as one best calculated to reinforce the effectiveness of the United Nations. Conciliation was responsible, in large measure, for safeguarding the results of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Conciliation was also instrumental in enabling this Assembly to embark on its work this year in circumstances which we, Mr. President, regard as among the most critical which the United Nations has had to face in the 20 years of its existence.

The crisis we face is not merely a financial crisis. Nor is it limited to constitutional issues. It is a crisis which touches upon our whole conception of the United Nations as the custodian of international peace and security. It is a crisis on the outcome of which hinge the hopes and aspirations of the vast majority of its members for a peaceful and securely-ordered world.

Canada attaches the highest importance to the concept of peace keeping. We regard the evolution of that concept, as distinct from the concepts envisaged in Chapter VII of the Charter, as affording the most significant example of the vitality of the United Nations and its capacity for change in response to changing circumstances. Peace keeping has evolved steadily from the designation of an Observer Group to assist India and Pakistan in avoiding further conflict in Kashmir to the despatch of a United Nations Force to the island of Cyprus earlier this year. This is a period which is almost coterminous with the whole period of existence of the United Nations. Increasingly, over this period, there has been recourse to, and reliance upon, the United Nations presence to prevent unstable situations from erupting into open conflict.

Because of the importance which Canada attaches to this development and the implications it has for the maintenance of world peace and security, we have participated in every peace-keeping operation mounted by the United Nations since 1948, and we have done our best to meet its calls for logistic and financial support. We have also, over the past eight years, maintained a stand-by force which is available on short notice should it be requested by the United Nations for participation in duly-authorized peace-keeping operations.

The same motives which prompted us to respond readily to the calls of the United Nations also prompted us, last month, to convene a conference in Ottawa for the purpose of taking stock of the practical experience which has been gained in past peace-keeping operations. The Conference was attended by representatives from 23 countries, and I am pleased to take this opportunity of paying tribute to the excellent work they did. There was no attempt made by the Conference to produce formal conclusions or to chart any forward course of collective action. I am confident, however, that the Conference has done