

never come to terms with each other, and intercommunal relations are characterized by a lack of co-operation and mutual distrust. The Greek Cypriot community, although it has never been under the rule of the Greek mainland, shares a common culture with the Greek people and many Greek Cypriots support the conception of *Enosis*, or union with Greece. The Turkish Cypriots, for their part, are descendants of colonists brought to the island after its conquest by the Ottoman Turks in 1571, and their primary concern as a religious and ethnic minority has been in securing and ensuring their rights.

The constitution, under which Cyprus achieved independence in 1960, attempted to provide these guarantees through a complicated system of checks and balances. The Turkish community was given a specific portion of posts in the ministries, the National Parliament, the police and the civil service; and both the Greek President and the Turkish Vice-President had right of veto over decisions concerning foreign affairs, defence and security. However, the constitution never worked. Its greatest defect was that it accentuated the separation of the two communities at the very moment when close co-operation was needed. The Greeks were soon accusing the Turks of obstructing legislation and economic development by insisting upon their privileges, while the Turks accused the Greeks of violating their constitutional rights by governing in spite of them.

On November 30, 1963, Archbishop Makarios formally proposed some 13 constitutional amendments to Dr. Kutchuk, the Turkish Vice-President. These amendments would have had the effect of doing away with the presidential and vice-presidential vetoes, achieving greater unity in the House of Representatives, abolishing the separate Turkish municipalities and cutting down Turkish representation in the public service, the police and the armed forces.

Tensions quickly mounted and intercommunal violence broke out four days before Christmas. The Security Council met to consider the Cyprus issue on December 27, 1963, and in the meantime British troops stationed on the island sought to restore order. However, it was quite evident that this task could not be exercised by Britain alone for an indefinite period, and on March 4, 1964, the Security Council passed a resolution, the heart of which authorized the establishment of an international peacekeeping force and the appointment of a mediator.

Canada was asked to contribute to this force and, meeting in an emergency session on Friday, March 13, 1964, Parliament authorized a contingent of 1,150 officers and men. This country's decision to respond favourably to the request of the United Nations Secretary-General was based on the fact that the Canadian -- and the general --