

Practical Co-operation

It has been generally recognized that it is of crucial importance to the United Nations effort in the Congo that there should be a legal and effective Congolese Government for it to deal with, and I have suggested measures which might help towards the achievement of this objective. In the meantime there is, in Canada's opinion, a considerable field for constructive co-operation between the United Nations authorities and the de facto authorities in the Congo. My Delegation urges that this area of practical co-operation be widened in every way possible.

Before leaving this general subject of the role of the United Nations in the Congo and the relations between the world organization and the Congolese, I should like to re-state Canada's conception of the essential nature and purpose of United Nations involvement in the Congo. In our view, the fundamental objective of the United Nations effort is to help the Congolese people to solve their problems themselves. Whether in vital first steps to restore public order, or in the formulation of more substantive measures for a return to constitutional procedures or, when these initial problems are overcome, in bringing to bear all the varied resources of the United Nations in re-building the economy and administrative services of the country, the United Nations can assist the Congo effectively only in co-operation with the Congolese. The United Nations should not seek to impose solutions to the problems of the Congo.

Congolese Must Understand UN Aims

It is relevant to observe that the objectives of the United Nations operation in the Congo have apparently not been fully understood by the Congolese people, nor indeed - and this is more important - appreciated by the majority of Congolese leaders. Efforts are being made to correct this situation. But since the success of the United Nations' efforts in the Congo must depend on working with the understanding and support of the Congolese, this should be one of the most urgent and important tasks of the United Nations representatives in the Congo.

... I have described the problems facing the United Nations in providing civil assistance to the Congo, in dealing with the various military questions which have arisen, and in fostering a political settlement. I have spoken of the successes achieved, of the difficulties faced - many of them new in United Nations experience - and I have suggested various ways in which, in my Delegation's view, we might profitably proceed in the future. I have not laid much stress on what is at stake for the United Nations in the Congo, because I think there is no lack of awareness of it. What is at stake, of course, is nothing less than the continued ability of the United Nations to take effective action in cases of threats to peace and security. This awareness is indicated, among many other ways, by the response to the Secretary-General's recent appeal for additional troops to serve with the United Nations in the Congo. In this regard, I should like to pay special tribute to the Government of India for its action in making available very substantial numbers of troops at a critical juncture.