

Canada is also devoted to the future of the Commonwealth, a unique interracial and intercontinental concept in which we have invested great hopes for the future. One of the characteristics of the Commonwealth relationship has always been that its members, without any binding commitment to do so, have been disposed to help each other in times of trouble. In this case two Commonwealth countries are involved.

I hope that Canadians will never be indifferent or insensitive to the sufferings of peoples, no matter how remote geographically the situation may be from Canada.

Cyprus is a country of great beauty, but it has had a turbulent and dramatic history. In his poem, Lawrence Durrell described the island as:

"an island of bitter lemons where the dry grass underfoot tortures memory"

Cyprus is a country of contrasts -- of forests and gardens, of desert and ruins, of gaiety and tragedy, of blue skies and seas, and, I regret to say, of black hatred. Somehow the two communities that live there must be brought to realize that their future lies in working and living together in peace, with tolerance and mutual respect.

The United Nations Force has now been in Cyprus for just under a month and the mediator is searching for a long-term solution to the problem of maintaining real tranquillity. This work has just begun and in dealing with the difficulties and differences over the best means of conducting the United Nations operation we must not lose sight of the disaster that might have devolved if the United Nations had not come forward in time of crisis.

Other Reasons for Canadian Lead

It is very important to note some of the other reasons why Canada was able to provide leadership in the United Nations at the time of the Cyprus crisis. For a number of years now, Canada has maintained on stand-by duty a battalion for possible service under the United Nations specially trained for peace-keeping duties, and this enabled us to respond quickly to the Secretary-General's request. Only a few other governments have made similar advance preparations. We hope that many more will do so, and we are urging that positive steps in this direction be taken in the immediate future to assist the United Nations in the fulfilment of its peace-keeping role.

In the Cyprus operation, Britain, Sweden, Ireland, Finland and Canada are contributing contingents to the Peace-Keeping Force. Australia and New Zealand are providing policemen to help prevent incidents. Austria has provided police and a hospital unit. A number of other countries are contemplating contributions, and 19 nations have so far pledged \$5.4 million to the cost of the operation. We are urging that the Force be internationalized to the greatest extent possible.