

The possibility of developing a role for the United Nations as a means of achieving a solution to the Berlin problem must necessarily be carefully examined. In the past the United Nations has made notable contributions to the peaceful settlement of disputes.

For the Record

In point of fact the potentialities of the United Nations in this connection have not been ignored. This suggestion on my part regarding the United Nations is not new. I would point out that on March 19, 1959, in answer to a question by the Leader of the Opposition in which he inquired of me whether I would give a report about the conversations that had just been completed with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom...I stated as follows:

"Our talks were largely in the nature of an exchange of information and a review of the German and Berlin problems and of the various proposals for a settlement of those problems now under study in Western capitals and in NATO. I should emphasize that neither Mr. Macmillan nor I attempted to crystallize any British or Canadian position on specific questions under discussion. However, I might add that it is my belief that the United Nations might play some significant role in the solution of the Berlin problem, and that this phase deserves further and more careful study. I think it would be generally agreed that it was clear there was no essential difference in the British and Canadian assessments of the world situation or in the basic aims and policies of our two countries with regard to the complex questions of Germany, Berlin and European security.

I do not think I can add anything more to what I have said. I know the Leader of the Opposition, with his great experience in these matters, will realize that I can go no further than the outline I have just given the House."

At that time the Leader of the Opposition said this:

"It is particularly gratifying to hear the Prime Minister say that there may be a way in which the United Nations can, in due course, play a part in this Berlin situation in a manner which would be helpful to peace and security."

Then, speaking in the House on April 7, 1969...these words:

"By way of contributing to this process of clarification Canada offered a few suggestions concerning the problem of Berlin."

That reference is to clarification of the joint NATO viewpoint arising from the NATO Ministerial Meeting, which was then taking place in Washington and at which the then Minister of National Defence, Hon. George Pearkes, V.C., represented Canada. I continued: