

A Canadian Formula

The Canadian Government is determined to help the United Nations to surmount this present crisis, which endangers the whole peace-keeping future of the United Nations. During this special session, the Canadian Delegation has been seeking support for a formula containing the following elements:

1. The principle of collective financial responsibility should be observed by placing a pre-determined level of peace-keeping expenses under the regular scale of assessment and by ensuring that any excess is shared among the whole membership, even though some assessments may be reduced substantially from the regular scale.
2. Member states with a low capacity to pay should be offered some reduction from their regular assessments for peace-keeping costs above the pre-determined level, the size of such reduction being related to the country's capacity to pay and its demonstrated financial responsibility as regards the payment of arrears.
3. To meet the shortfall resulting from reductions granted, the developed countries, including Canada, should be prepared to make voluntary contributions in addition to their normally assessed shares.

This afternoon I had the privilege of meeting with Secretary-General U Thant. Canadians watch with respect the way in which he is fulfilling his difficult and lonely task with quiet courage and a firm determination to maintain the United Nations as an effective instrument for international co-operation. He shouldered squarely the heavy responsibility for restoring calm and confidence in the United Nations at a time when it was shattered by the sudden and ominous tragedy of the death of his brilliant predecessor.

I shall always remember Dag Hammarskjold as a close friend, as a tireless fighter for the United Nations and as a great champion of its purposes and principles.

During a period of unprecedented ferment in the public affairs of nations, in a few short turbulent years the United Nations has exhibited a remarkable evolution in international institutions.

In the Canadian view, the difficulties and the limitations imposed during this period of evolution are not reasons for losing faith in the United Nations. They are reasons for striving energetically to make this international system work. They are reasons for seeking practical ways of surmounting or getting around obstacles in the path of the idea of the United Nations.