

arrangements are satisfactory, it is clear that the application of this approach by all members of the United Nations would completely paralyse the organization.

The Canadian Government holds strongly to the view that present arrangements are most unsatisfactory. There is an urgent need for the elaboration of principles for the financing of future peace-keeping operations to permit an equitable sharing of the cost of peace-keeping operations. This is the central task of our Working Group. And I agree with my Indian colleague that we should concentrate on this, rather than on the wider controversy over who has the right to initiate operations.

Canadian support for Resolution 1874 at the fourth special session is evidence of our belief both in the principle of collective responsibility for United Nations peace-keeping operations and acceptance of the view that there should be some adjustment so that the burden of major peace-keeping operations would not fall so heavily on those member states whose capacity to pay is limited. We consider that it is feasible and desirable that our Working Group should in the next few weeks build on Resolution 1874 and reach agreement on a scale which could serve as a guide for the allocation of expenses for future peace-keeping operations.

It is a cardinal principle of democratic government, to which all our nations subscribe, that taxation should be based on representation. I doubt that any member of this Working Group would wish to dispute that principle. We therefore agree with the Representative of Brazil that the United Nations General Assembly is responsible under the Charter for allocating among the membership the expenses for any duly authorized peace-keeping operations except to the extent that the authorizing organ has specifically provided otherwise. In the case of operations approved by the Security Council, let us be clear that the General Assembly's responsibility is financial. Political authority remains vested in the Council itself, which can exercise continuing overall supervision of the use of techniques such as the imposition of a time limit on the duration of an operation's mandate. I cannot understand, therefore, why it should be necessary for any member of this Working Group, including permanent members of the Security Council, to oppose the principle that the United Nations General Assembly shall decide on how expenses for operations approved by the Council shall be allocated among the membership. My Government, as I mentioned before, strongly supports the principle of collective responsibility for United Nations peace-keeping operations and, therefore, the view that such operations should, as a matter of principle, be financed by assessing the membership of the organization. It seems to me that other members of the Working Group holding a similar view would wish to demonstrate their support for this principle by agreeing on a special scale of assessments for financing such operations. I suggest the same scale could apply as in the case of Security-Council-approved operations. If we fail to come up with a recommendation for apportioning the cost of peace-keeping operations, it will seriously undermine the principle of collective responsibility, and the organization's ability to establish and maintain peace-keeping operations will be greatly weakened.

The working paper presented by the United States Delegation includes an interesting suggestion that a special finance committee be established to review financing arrangements for peace-keeping operations. This is a suggestion worthy of careful consideration. If such a body were to be established, it might, for instance, in cases where the Security Council had taken a decision to establish a peace-keeping operation to be financed by United Nations membership, review the operation and recommend to the General Assembly the application of the special scale which we hope we shall be able to establish at the next session of the United Nations General Assembly. In cases where a peace-keeping operation was established by the United Nations General Assembly, my Delegation considers that the special finance committee would have a similar responsibility for recommending financial arrangements.