

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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PEACEKEEPING

Text of Statement to be delivered in the
Special Political Committee by the Canadian
Representative, Mr. P.A. Beaulieu, on Friday,
November 19, 1965

I do not need to emphasize the importance which my delegation attaches to peacekeeping. Canada has been called upon to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations since the early years of the United Nations. More than 2000 Canadian servicemen are now engaged in this task. Canada has taken special measures to prepare for her participation in peacekeeping, including the organization and training of units of her armed forces. It is true that the Canadian national interest, in the narrow sense of the term, may not be directly implicated in all the disputes which have resulted in these peacekeeping commitments; but, in the broader sense of national interest, we believe that the interests of Canada are best served by our participation in collective arrangements to maintain or restore peace and security. Furthermore, our involvement in peacekeeping has given us strong reasons for wishing to improve the methods which govern peacekeeping and thus to take an active interest in the item before us.

Let me review briefly our position on the authorization, control, and financing of peacekeeping operations. We agree that the Security Council must continue to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. But we cannot accept that, in the absence of agreement between the members of the Council, the United Nations is prevented from recommending measures to maintain or restore peace. In these circumstances, we believe, the membership as a whole must have an opportunity to recommend what is to be done. Some have expressed or implied the belief that the Assembly might be tempted to make recommendations which are inapplicable and irresponsible. But the history of the United Nations demonstrates on the contrary that the Assembly can act and has acted with both moderation and despatch in this field.

In regard to the control and direction of peacekeeping we would urge that considerations of efficiency be allowed to prevail. The system whereby the Secretary-General retains