

intervening 14 months, Canada has maintained what is now the largest contingent in Cyprus. And we have shouldered the full financial burden of keeping our forces there.

The end of the operation is not yet in sight, and I hope that more countries will see their way clear to assuming some share of responsibility for its continuance. As far as Canada is concerned, we intend, for the present, to maintain our commitment in Cyprus. At the same time, we look to a long-term settlement of the present crisis which will make the continued presence of a United Nations force on the island unnecessary.

As a member of that force, it would not, in my view, be appropriate for Canada to advocate any particular views with regard to the nature of such a long-term settlement. That is essentially the task of the parties concerned and of the United Nations, which has been entrusted with the task of mediation. The United Nations mediator has now submitted his report. While there have been differences of view between the parties with regard to that report, I believe, nevertheless, that the stage has been reached when negotiations between them need to be started. I should hope that that would be done in a positive and constructive spirit.

The situation on the island is complex. Two communities -- Greek and Turkish -- have long been established there. Both represent cultures and civilization which have made an immense contribution to the Eastern Mediterranean area and beyond. There has been a breakdown of mutual confidence between these communities, and there is very deep bitterness and suspicion between them. The Greek community represents a majority on the island and I think we can all appreciate, in such a situation, the problems encountered in the search for a framework that will give assurance to all the inhabitants and harness their energies and their loyalties in the best interests of the new state.

Inevitably, the interests of Greece and Turkey are engaged in the course of events in Cyprus. Both are our partners in NATO and the strain in their relations arising from their differences over Cyprus has been a matter of grave concern to the Alliance. On the basis of my conversations with the Greek and Turkish Foreign Ministers at the NATO meetings last week, I can say that both countries are aware of their responsibilities in this situation and that they are prepared to play their part in facilitating a long-term solution of the problem in Cyprus.

It is my own firm belief that the time has now come for all interested parties to get the process of negotiation under way. I put this view as forcefully as I could to those concerned with the situation in the course of my visit to Cyprus and subsequently at the NATO meetings in London. I thought it right to make a particular point of emphasizing the urgency of moving forward. I can only say that I am encouraged by the response I encountered on all sides and by some of the positive steps which are already being taken in that direction.

The fundamental problem of peaceful and co-operative coexistence is primarily for the two communities on the island to resolve with the good offices of the United Nations. But I am sure it is also important that parallel discussions be continued between the Governments of Greece and Turkey to improve their relations and to explore the respective contributions they might be able to make to a durable