

thorough study of alternative fuel-cycles that avoid the use of plutonium or improve safeguards. We commend the United States for its initiatives in this field and hope that all countries will give it their full support. This subject is much too broad and too important to be dealt with in a few moments. I hope that this Assembly will provide the time for a full-scale discussion, for there can be no subject of greater importance.

Because of Canada's special interest, I hope and expect there will be an opportunity also to discuss UN peacekeeping activities. In the Middle East, Cyprus and South Asia, United Nations peacekeeping forces or observer groups are in place. Soon there may be further requests involving Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Canada has consistently responded to UN requests to provide personnel as available for peacekeeping, because we believe this to be a significant way to contribute to world peace. But in Canada there is growing concern about peacekeeping for two reasons. First, many of the disputes that led to the need for peacekeeping forces appear no nearer to solution than they were one, two or even three decades ago. We recognize that these basic and intractable problems cannot be settled overnight. What we wish, but do not always see, is evidence that the parties are intent on negotiating an end to their disputes.

Secondly, although the two most recent forces, the UN Emergency Force and the UN Disengagement Observer Force, are being properly paid for through collective assessment, we have failed to reach general agreement on how future peacekeeping operations should be financed, and the UN Force in Cyprus is over \$50 million in debt. If operations are not properly funded, many members of the UN will not be able to afford to provide forces — a situation that will not be healthy either for this organization or the conception of peacekeeping.

In considering future participation, Canada will weigh these two considerations: whether peacekeeping forces will contribute to a settlement rather than provide temporary relief or even contribute to a perpetuation of the problem, and whether arrangements to pay for them represent the common will of members to assume the financial burden and permit troop-contributors to be selected from a broad cross-section of countries.

I have no doubt that we shall hear a great deal about human rights during the coming months. And not only here at the United Nations. Within a few days, the review conference on the Helsinki Final Act opens in Belgrade. Canada, as one of the signers of that document, will make its views known at that time.

But we must also recognize that the United Nations has a major responsibility in the human-rights field — one we have not always discharged fully or effectively.

Last year, we welcomed the coming into force of the Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights. Paradoxically, at a time when these new human-rights instruments have defined more fully the rights of persons in states, which have ratified these instruments and have created new machinery to