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The preservation of peace and the promotion of international security was one of the primary motives behind the founding of the United Nations in 1945. It was hoped that the UN, with the provision for collective-security arrangements in Chapter VII of the Charter, would be able to take action to deal with any threat to peace or act of aggression. However, within a few years of the founding of the United Nations, it became apparent that the Cold War and the consequent disputes among the great powers rendered the collective-security system of the UN ineffective. At the same time, it became apparent that there were crises which were not serious enough to warrant enforcement action under Chapter VII of the Charter but were sufficiently serious to require intervention by the UN with the consent of the parties to the disputes. It was out of this situation that the conception of peace-keeping began to take shape in the immediate postwar years -- the idea of internationally-sponsored and neutral bodies of men drawn primarily from the small and middle powers to separate disputants and to supervise cease-fires.

From the outset, Canada has played a major role in the development of peace-keeping. We recognize its importance in the preservation of international peace and security. Consequently, it is a continuing objective of Canadian foreign policy to help strengthen the authority of the UN in its capacity as a peacekeeping agency. Canadians have participated in almost all UN peacekeeping operations to date -- in Egypt, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Korea, India, Pakistan, West New Guinea, the Congo, Yemen and Nigeria. Today, about 1,600 Canadians are serving in five UN peacekeeping operations, the most important of which are in the Middle East and Cyprus. As a result of this lengthy and intensive experience, Canada has become recognized as the peace-keeper *par excellence*, with an international reputation for objectivity and professional competence.

I said a moment ago that the peacekeeping operation on Cyprus is one of the two most important peacekeeping assignments being carried out at present under the UN. It is also one of the most protracted and, in some ways, the most difficult assignments. Let us take a closer look at the peacekeeping situation in Cyprus in order to determine what the particular difficulties are and what may be done to overcome them.

History has created on Cyprus two indigenous communities of wholly different social and religious characteristics -- a Greek Cypriot community of about 450,000 (that is, four-fifths of the total population) and a Turkish Cypriot community of almost 130,000 (that is, one-fifth of the total population). In spite of the geographical intermixture of these two communities and of the obvious need to co-exist on a small island, the Greek and Turkish Cypriots have