

One of the few useful tools which we have developed so far to deal with this problem is peacekeeping by a United Nations sponsored force. Canada has responded positively to United Nations requests and has been engaged in virtually all of the United Nations peacekeeping operations to date. This has not been without cost in lives of Canadians and of those from the forces of the other participating countries.

Our interest is therefore obvious. There is no doubt in my mind that an overwhelming majority of Canadians continue to accept the importance and the usefulness of a United Nations peacekeeping role. But I would be less than candid if I did not admit that Canadians are today less inclined to accept in an unquestioning way the burdens of participation. Their concern springs mainly from the fact that peacekeeping endeavours often seem to do no more than perpetuate an uneasy status quo.

If United Nations' peacekeeping activity is to be fully effective it must be accompanied by a parallel effort on the political level, especially by the parties most directly concerned, to convert the temporary peace that a peacekeeping force is asked to maintain into something more durable. If this is not done, and if those who contribute to peacekeeping roles are faced with indefinite prolongation of their hazardous tasks, I am afraid governments will be less willing to respond to future requests for troops.

The past year has seen two new peacekeeping operations established in the Middle East and the force in Cyprus reinforced. These developments were important in themselves but they are also capable of teaching us lessons for the future. From the Canadian standpoint the operations in the Middle East are working effectively and are making an essential contribution to the maintenance of the ceasefire and disengagement agreements. But equally important, new principles have been established in the process. Participants have been drawn from a broader base than in the past, and a sounder financial foundation for the operations has been laid through a general assessment of the United Nations membership. These innovations have contributed to effective peacekeeping in the Middle East for the present, and will enhance the prospect of more effective peacekeeping in the future.

There are less grounds for satisfaction in the case of Cyprus. There, despite the presence of United Nations' peacekeeping