

lision course which, if not diverted, can only have the gravest consequences for the United Nations, whatever the outcome. In this situation, it is incumbent on each and every one of us to reflect on the implications of our present course and to explore all avenues of reaching an accommodation to which we can all subscribe.

The vital importance of this problem has, of course, been recognized for some considerable time. As far back as 1961, the Canadian Delegation, in an effort to find a solution to this problem, sponsored the proposal which led to the establishment of the Working Group of 15. In this Group, and subsequently in the Working Group of 21, we sought actively to reconcile the fundamental divergences of view which have threatened the capacity of the United Nations to keep the peace. We deeply regret that it has not proved possible so far to arrive at any accommodation.

Need for Mutual Concession

Such an accommodation must be found. If it is to be found, there will need to be a willingness to make concessions on all sides. I am confident that, in the same spirit of conciliation which has attended the opening phase of this Assembly, the necessary concessions can and will be made. Agreement on this issue is vital to the future of our organization, but I believe it will also have implications beyond the United Nations. It could be as important as the nuclear test-ban treaty as a means of broadening the basis of international understanding. For it is surely in the interest of the great powers that the international community should be free to act in situations which might otherwise have the effect of extending the area of confrontation between them.

The search for agreement must be initiated at once and pursued vigorously. We welcome the steps which have already been taken by the Secretary-General to this end. We look forward to the early advancement of the more restricted discussions now under way, to the point where the Working Group of 21 can be called into action. We believe that, at that stage, the detailed exploration of this issue which has been carried out by the members of the Working Group over the past year will prove to be of value.

The Canadian objective in these discussions will be to achieve an accommodation, not a capitulation. I would not wish to leave this subject, however, without affirming once again our belief that the principle of shared responsibility must form the basis of any ultimate consensus. We believe, in particular, that the responsibility for meeting the costs of operations such as Cyprus, the need for which has been acknowledged by the Security Council, must be shared by all member states, rather than left to a few.

With regard to the maintenance of peace and security, I wish to emphasize as strongly as I can that it is not enough for the United Nations to rely on the goodwill of a few. It must be able to count on the response and the responsibility of the whole membership.