

Eisenhower outlined on 13 August from this platform could have far-reaching and beneficial consequences for the Middle East, and no one, I suggest, should underestimate the significance of the new policies which President Eisenhower thereby enunciated. The willingness of the United States to support materially and technically the kind of initiative envisaged by the Secretary-General to solve problems which have been a source of friction and an obstacle to progress in the Middle East for so long is to be highly commended, as is the recognition on the part of the United States that it is through the United Nations that the means to carry out these proposals should be found. It is unfortunate that bilateral economic programmes which ought to have benefitted this area should often in the past have been spurned for political reasons, or have been the occasion for an intensification of political rivalries within the area and political rivalries between the great Powers. The Canadian Government, for its part, has already endorsed in principle the concept of a Middle East regional economic development plan under United Nations auspices, and we would sincerely hope that the Arab States will themselves see the advantage of taking the initiative to implement the suggestions contained in paragraph 2 of section C of this resolution.

U.N. Peace Force

A further long-term project which will be carried a step further if the present resolution receives the general support that it deserves is that relating to the creation of a stand-by United Nations Peace Force. The Canadian Government's support, over many years, for the creation of such a force is a matter of record in this Assembly, reaffirmed as recently as last September when Prime Minister Diefenbaker addressed the opening meeting of the twelfth regular session.

It is indeed an essential element in Canadian policy to accord high priority to the honouring of commitments to preserve the peace through United Nations action, and to provide the Organization with instrumentalities to accomplish its purposes. Canada welcomes a new, or perhaps I should say a renewed effort in the direction of a more permanent and workmanlike arrangement to meet the requirements of the United Nations in this regard. Our willingness to respond to specific United Nations requests has led to a long record of United Nations service of which Canada is justly proud.

Operations of the United Nations Emergency Force in Gaza have required the greatest numerical contribution on the part of Canada, but we have borne, with equal willingness, our share of responsibility in other United Nations peace efforts: in Kashmir, in the Truce Supervision