

The recent announcement by the defence ministers of the Scandinavian countries about arrangements which they have made for the formation of a composite Nordic contingent has been welcomed by Canada. I believe that this practical approach to the problem of providing prompt assistance to the United Nations, when it is needed for peace-keeping operations, can be extended. I hope that other member states will follow this example of Scandinavian co-operation in the cause of peace.

Another step would be to improve further the Secretariat machinery for co-ordinating and conducting international peace-keeping operations. I suggest that a compact military planning team attached to the Secretariat could periodically review the national availabilities for providing contingents to United Nations military forces. It could also examine operational, logistical and administrative problems with a view to improving United Nations procedures in the conduct of peace-keeping operations.

UN Finances

Canadians are deeply concerned about the immediate financial crisis before the United Nations in this Special Assembly. This deficit of approximately \$120 million that now faces the United Nations has resulted mainly from the fact that some member states have failed to pay their assessments to meet peace-keeping costs.

You know, it is staggering and not a little ironic that this world of ours, which spends upwards of \$120 billion a year on armaments, would dare to jeopardize the whole United Nations for a sum of \$120 million. It makes one think that perhaps George Bernard Shaw was correct when he said: "If the other planets are inhabited, they must think of earth as their lunatic asylum."

For several years now the United Nations has tried to sidestep the financial crisis by adopting unsatisfactory ad hoc measures, which not only failed to produce adequate resources but served to delay an assault on the fundamental issue.

Recognizing the risks in allowing this situation to drift, Canada has sought in the past few years to concentrate the attention of the General Assembly on the need to establish sound financial procedures that would place peace-keeping on a firm footing. Ideally, the Assembly should agree on a long-term formula that would serve as a pattern for financing in the future and as a basis for planning, both by the Secretariat and by national governments. Under the prevailing circumstances, however, we recognize that the special session must concentrate on the immediate problem of finding funds for the remainder of this year.