

to take this opportunity of expressing to them, and to the members of Canadian contingents serving elsewhere, the warm appreciation of the Canadian Government and people for the distinguished service they have rendered.

Peace keeping has served to insulate situations of disorder and conflict and to pave the way for long-term solutions. This capacity of the United Nations to intervene in the cause of peace has now been called into question by the action of some important member states in refusing to share equitably in the financing of peace-keeping operations. As a result of this action the organization is now facing a crisis which, in the Canadian view, touches upon the whole conception of the United Nations as the custodian of international peace and security. We earnestly hope that, in the year upon which we are now embarking, the crisis over peace keeping will be solved. We firmly believe, however, that it can be solved only on the basis of all member states acknowledging the responsibility they share for equipping the United Nations with an assured and effective capacity to keep the peace.

MAJOR CHALLENGE

As members of the United Nations we have all pledged our determination "to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security". But we have equally pledged our determination "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom". There can be no doubt that this is the major challenge facing us over the next several decades. It is a challenge which calls for the mobilization of all the resources at our command. I am confident that, with the holding of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development earlier this year, we have created the degree of understanding that must lie at the basis of any effective international action to meet this challenge to our conscience and to the enlightened self-interest of the world community as a whole.

On this note, I should like to join with men of goodwill every where in welcoming the New Year. Let us pledge ourselves in 1965 to meet the great challenges that lie before us and to contribute, each within the measure of his capacity, to the consolidation of world peace and world prosperity. Let us make 1965, in spirit as in name, a Year of International Co-operation.

NATIONAL FARM LABOUR CONFERENCE

The recent federal-provincial conference on agricultural manpower agreed that a shortage of skilled farm labour had been developing in several parts of Canada. The problem, it was felt, was complicated by the great variety of changing patterns of demand in agriculture. Twice as many hired workers were needed on farms in the summer as in the winter. Because of this seasonal pattern, there was a need for advanced planning and a better organization of the agricultural labour market in Canada. This required steps to upgrade existing manpower and, where necessary, to transfer workers from areas of surplus to areas of tight labour supply.

WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS

There was thorough discussion of working and living conditions in agriculture, during which consideration was given to hours of work, wages, duration of employment and living conditions, because of the importance of these factors in attracting and retaining qualified workers in agriculture.

There was an absence, the delegates found, of satisfactory data on the working and living conditions of workers on Canadian farms, which constituted an impediment to the developing of adequate agricultural manpower programmes. It was agreed that a critical review should be undertaken of existing surveys to determine the gaps that existed and the means by which more comprehensive information on farm manpower and employment conditions in agriculture could be obtained, analysed and presented.

The meeting discussed the extension of unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation to the farm labour force. It was recognized that the seasonal nature of agriculture made coverage more difficult.

In considering the need to raise the level of manpower skills in agriculture, there was general agreement on the need to expand existing training and to set up new training programmes where they were needed.

A new federal-provincial Agricultural Manpower Agreement for federal-provincial co-operation in this field was discussed and there was agreement in principle with respect to this agreement.

MORE M113 CARRIERS FOR ARMY

It was recently announced that an additional 500 M113 armoured carriers were being ordered, at a total cost of about \$28 million, as part of the Canadian Army's re-equipment programme, which was given top priority in the White Paper on Defence. The expenditure includes provision of armament and communications equipment for the carriers. This brings to 961 the number of M113s ordered by the Department of National Defence, 461 having been ordered earlier this year.

USE OF CARRIERS

Four carriers have already been received and are being used to train maintenance and repair personnel of the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group in Germany and at the RCEME School at Barriefield, Ontario. The rest of the original order will be received between January and August 1965. Of these, about 300 will go to the brigade in Germany, to give it greatly increased cross-country mobility, with the rest going to Canadian-based units and training schools.

From the new order of 500 armoured personnel carriers, 100 will go to the Germany-based brigade, the remainder being held in Canada for the 1st and 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade Groups.

The M113 is a 12-ton tracked, amphibious, cross-country vehicle capable of transporting 12 fully-equipped soldiers and a driver. It has a cruising range of 300 miles, with a maximum speed of 40 m.p.h.