

Cyprus. I am sure that my colleagues here will understand when I say that Canada takes pride in the role it has assumed over the years in a series of situations where the United Nations has been called upon to fulfil its Charter responsibilities to preserve the peace. In the Suez crisis, in the Congo, in the Yemen and, most recently, in Cyprus, Canada has met what it regards as an obligation to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to preserve international peace and security. Outside the context of the United Nations, Canada has participated, together with India and Poland, for nearly ten years now in the International Supervisory Commissions in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. My Government places a high value on the efforts of those bodies to preserve peace and stability in Southeast Asia. As a result of those experiences, we have become convinced that better organization of United Nations peace-keeping forces is a most important objective.

At the last session of the General Assembly, my Prime Minister made specific suggestions on what states could do to enable the United Nations to respond more effectively and promptly when a force was required to assist in the re-establishment of peaceful conditions. As recently as 21 March, Mr. Pearson said on this matter:

"For years now at the United Nations Canada has taken a lead in advocating a permanent international force which will be organized and equipped and available to move in swiftly to keep the peace in these danger spots. How long are we going to have to improvise, to rely on a few members of the United Nations to carry the burden and do the job which should be done by the United Nations as a whole?"

He was, of course, influenced in making that observation by the haphazard, unprepared arrangements that attended the situation which led to the establishment of the international force in Cyprus. He continued:

"I still hope to see the day when we will have an organized, equipped and genuine international force under the national control of the members but available for use at a moment's notice."

The Canadian Government believes wholeheartedly in the peace-keeping role of the United Nations and we will support all moves to increase its ability to perform that role with increasing effectiveness.

I mention this question now because the development and strengthening of peace-keeping machinery and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes have a direct relation to the negotiations on disarmament in this Committee. The longer-term relevance of peace keeping to disarmament is demonstrated by the fact that the disarmament plans of both the United States and the Soviet Union include provisions for the development of peace-keeping methods. As nations in the course of disarmament give up the means which they now have to preserve their national security, it is essential that alternative methods of preserving that security should be progressively established. It is clear, therefore, that the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament has a responsibility to discuss the development of adequate peace-keeping machinery in the context of disarmament.