

renewed efforts between the parties to find a settlement, which I hope may soon bear fruit.

The United Nations Force on Cyprus, in which Canada participates, has been there now for more than four years. There is no doubt that it has helped to keep the island relatively peaceful and that its presence during that time, and particularly last November, helped to provide a way out for those who might otherwise have felt compelled to use force. That is one of the main purposes of a United Nations presence -- to act as a face-saving device, a diplomatic hurdle which is conveniently too high to seem worth jumping. Nevertheless, I should hope that UNFICYP would remain a hurdle and not become a fence, for another function of a United Nations presence is that it should encourage, not discourage, a political settlement. I hope the time may be soon approaching in Cyprus when the United Nations can best encourage a settlement by setting in motion the procedures of gradual disengagement and withdrawal, thus signifying both its confidence in the improvement that has already taken place on the island and its serious expectation of further progress toward settlement.

Peaceful settlement and peaceful change clearly must have priority in our thinking about United Nations peace-keeping, even though these are difficult conceptions to translate into practice in specific circumstances. Nevertheless, it is important for the United Nations to prepare for future peacekeeping responsibilities. If we cannot settle a particular dispute and if it is likely to threaten the peace, the United Nations may be the only agency which can intervene in order to stop the conflict or threat of conflict from spreading or escalating. This is because the United Nations usually has both the political impartiality and the military capacity to be of practical service. For these reasons, it should be our objective to extend the area of United Nations control to disputes (the most obvious example is, of course, the situation in Vietnam) which are now outside this area. Regional organizations may be able to do something where disputes are relatively minor and where all the members of the organization have an equal interest in settlement. But many disputes will be beyond the capacities of regional bodies to manage.

Canada has given strong support to all efforts at the United Nations to prepare in advance for peacekeeping emergencies -- by the earmarking of military or civilian personnel, services and facilities, by the preparation of standard operating and training procedures, by the standardization of equipment, and so on. These efforts have not yielded much result so far because there has been political disagreement about how the United Nations should authorize and control peacekeeping forces; until this argument is settled there has been a reluctance to make the technical military preparations which are desirable. However, I am glad to note that in the past few weeks there has been some willingness on both sides of the argument to put it to one side while work goes forward on the other aspects of peace-keeping I have mentioned. The log-jam is not yet entirely broken. But I am encouraged by the signs of progress.

I hope that the United Nations can substantially improve upon the practices of the past. We should emphasize the importance of a peacekeeping operation having a clearly defined and feasible mandate; of obtaining full co-operation from the host government; of spreading the responsibilities for peace-keeping as equitably amongst the international community as circumstances