

It is obvious that every country in the United Nations has an obligation to pay, in accordance with established assessments, its portion of money required to maintain the organization. We hope in Canada that the seemingly inflexible position taken by the Soviet Union will be recognized as deserving of a change in attitude in order to enable that country to play the role which, as an important power in the world, it must be expected to play. It will be a matter of the greatest regret if this problem is not resolved, and the Canadian Government, while it shares the same interpretation as the United States and as the Government of Britain, with regard to the default consequences under Article 19, hopes that the discussions at the United Nations will enable a compromise to ensue. Nothing would be more disastrous for the world than if the United Nations were to founder or become ineffective — yes, if it were to disappear — because of the refusal of a group of countries to accept the responsibility which, in the judgment of the International Court of Justice, is applicable to all countries. . . .

Canada is one of the middle powers of the world. By that, of course, I do not mean that we are unaligned or neutral, because we are not neutral and we are aligned. We are aligned with the nations of the West, with which we have bound ourselves together in a common defensive alliance, not for the purpose of waging aggressive war but for the purpose of being strong enough to resist aggression. By the very acceptance of the organization itself, we have undertaken to do what experience has shown the organization can and has been able to do — that is, maintain the peace in this very troubled time.

Canadians in the Congo

Later the same day, Mr. Martin replied as follows to various questions about the fate of foreign hostages in rebel hands in the Congo:

We are faced, as other governments are faced, with a serious situation in Stanleyville, where about 800 people are held as hostages. It would not be possible for anyone to say with any measure of certainty what is going to happen there.

Among that number are some 37 or 38 Canadians, some of them missionaries. We have tried to resort to every means within our power to obtain, along with other countries, the release of these hostages. In addition to the Hon. Member for Red Deer (Mr. Robert Thompson), one of our own officials, Mr. Gauvin, who likewise has had contact with some of the personalities involved in Stanleyville, is there now and was there with the Hon. Member for Red Deer, associated with him in an attempt to bring whatever influence they could to bear, through acquaintances in Africa, on those authorities in the Congo and in the Organization of African States for the release of these hostages. . . .

In mid-October, the Government of Canada — and we have no representative in Kenya, nor in Stanleyville — appealed on behalf of our people in the