

In our concern with the problems of peacekeeping we must not fail to give attention also to the fundamental question of the peaceful settlement of disputes. It was unfortunate that at a time when the Security Council had before it a long list of disputes, some dating back nearly 20 years, the General Assembly was at the last session unprepared to act on a proposal for a study of the procedures of peaceful settlement. Surely we have everything to gain and nothing to lose from a careful examination of past procedures and an impartial appraisal of future possibilities.

### Vietnam

Our concern with peacekeeping and peaceful settlement seems all the more justified against the background of the conflict in Vietnam. This is by far the most dangerous issue now facing the world.

Wherever armed conflict breaks out, it involves commitments of power and prestige. And the longer it continues the more difficult it becomes to reverse the course of events; the more difficult it becomes to bring into play the machinery of peaceful negotiation and settlement. In the face of such a conflict, can the international community really stand by and allow matters to develop to the point where all avenues of peaceful recourse are irrevocably closed?

I consider that this Organization has the obligation to contribute to peace in Vietnam. I think it is inconceivable that we should proceed with our meeting as if this threat to the safety of mankind did not exist. Even if, in present circumstances, the Security Council cannot deal effectively with this matter and some other framework may be appropriate, I continue to believe, as I stated last year, that it is the duty of this Assembly to express its deepest concern over the war in Vietnam. Must we not urge the path of negotiation on all concerned?

I know that there are differences between us about the origins of this conflict and how it can be brought to an end. I know how difficult the issues involved in this conflict are. For twelve years Canada has served, with India and Poland, on the International Commission in Vietnam. In that time we have witnessed at first hand the erosion of the Cease-Fire Agreement of 1954. We have known--and we still experience--the frustrations of the observer who is powerless to prevent what is happening before his eyes.

The Secretary-General, I know, has been untiring in his search for a settlement of the conflict. In doing so he has acted in clear and conscientious recognition of the responsibilities which attach to the world community in this matter.

There are those who say that the time for a settlement of this conflict is not ripe. For my part, I cannot accept this judgement. The road to peace in Vietnam will not be easy and it may not be quick. But a start on that road must be made.