

evolution in the commonwealth where freedom and independence have become a living reality for 600 million people since the second world war.

Canada's own part in developing the commonwealth prompts us to reject the Soviet union's criticisms and its claim to be the champion of freedom and independence for subject peoples. Sometimes I marvel at the nerve of the Soviet union representatives in making that claim.

We urge that the United Nations should view the Soviet attack in proper perspective. In 1960, the Prime Minister of Canada reminded the general assembly about the position of subject peoples within the Soviet empire. Many millions there cannot today exercise the right of self determination which the Soviet government demands for others.

The denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms casts grave doubts on the Soviet union's whole position on colonialism. When the United Nations is examining situations in many other areas of the world, it should not ignore the areas under Soviet rule. The charter principles on human rights and self determination are clearly intended to be universal in their application.

Peace Keeping Operations

I have been dealing with some of the main issues before this assembly. I turn now to a set of problems which vitally affect the future of this organization.

Of fundamental importance are the United Nations peace keeping operations in the Middle East, in the Congo and now in West New Guinea. Canada contributes men and resources to all these operations and regards this contribution as a prime responsibility of membership.

In the Congo, the United Nations has assumed its heaviest responsibility. The secretary general's program for national reconciliation there has been favourably received by the parties principally concerned and Canada is encouraged to hope that this plan will go forward smoothly. The elements of success in this difficult situation are a willingness on the part of the Congolese themselves to resolve their difficulties and a readiness on the part of all other states to support the program.

In this connection, the commonwealth prime ministers had this to say—and I think it is important coming from that conference—“They took note, in particular, of the proposals relating to the Congo which were recently put forward by the acting secretary general of the United Nations, and they expressed the hope that these would prove to be the basis for a speedy and constructive settlement.”

The task which the United Nations undertook in the Congo was one which it simply could not shirk. Members of this assembly need hardly be reminded, however, that one consequence has been a financial crisis verging on bankruptcy. Canada has supported ad hoc measures for meeting immediate financial needs but we have also consistently sought to place the financing of United Nations peace keeping operations on a solid foundation. We have urged that the basis should be collective responsibility.

For this reason, the Canadian government welcomed the advisory opinion of the international court of justice on July 20 which confirmed that the costs incurred for the United Nations emergency force and the Congo force were “expenses of the organization” within the meaning of Article 17 of the charter. This authoritative opinion should be endorsed by the general assembly and should form the basis for financing peace keeping operations. After all, advisory opinions of the court ought to be fully respected in the interests of establishing international rules of order.

Basing ourselves on the principle of collective responsibility, we must find a formula for apportioning peace-keeping costs because this organization has to be in a position to fulfil its charter purposes.

Stability in The United Nations

It is equally clear that the chief executive of this organization should have wholehearted support in the discharge of his responsibilities. Our distinguished acting secretary general has shown great courage, great patience and great wisdom during the course of his interim term of office—which remember, began at a time when confusion reigned in United Nations affairs. During the past year he has given leadership which has restored confidence to the organization.

The underlying need in United Nations affairs is for stability. In these turbulent times, governments require a steady base for international co-operation and for quiet diplomacy. Most people of the world look hopefully to the United Nations to point the way and provide the means to these ends.

A significant element in achieving stability and a capacity to act effectively is to develop orderly procedures. Our distinguished past president has made some interesting and useful suggestions for improving assembly procedures. I welcome the decision to inscribe an item on this subject, and I hope some solution will be worked out.

The greatly increased membership of the assembly and the length of recent sessions give added urgency to the need for the most