

we are prepared to examine issues on their merits: we are not neutral but we are seen to be objective. This was evident in the case of our being asked to serve on the International Commissions in Indochina and on UN peacekeeping forces.

We are thought to be able to find compromises in difficult situations. An example of this was the American delegate's resigned comment at the UN shortly after the war when discussions were deadlocked: "We've got to bring this thing to a head," he said. "I will take sight unseen any resolution which the Canadian delegation will propose." Admittedly such a *carte blanche* invitation is unusual, but it indicates the respect with which Canadians are viewed in international negotiations.

In the literally thousands of issues that arise in the conduct of foreign relations among states, Canada is considered a worthwhile source of information and views. Whether on disarmament or air travel or international aid or almost any other problem, we have demonstrated our usefulness in the search for solutions or initiatives.

The totality of these impressions of Canada is very favourable. In simple terms, our image is good in most parts of the world.

But all is not sweetness and light. Canada is not all things to all men. We have orientations and perspectives which differ from others. We have pursued policies abroad which we believe to be right in terms of our own interest and in the interest of world peace and development. In some cases, these orientations and policies have brought us into conflict with others - with friendly countries as well as with those not so friendly. We regret these differences of view but we make no apology for our policies. But it is true that, in this disturbed world, the lack of friction between Canada and other countries and the general disposition by other countries to understand the Canadian point of view is remarkable....

EXPANSION OF FOREIGN AID

Canada is...rapidly expanding its foreign aid programme. Our annual expenditure is now \$300 million. It should exceed half a billion dollars within five years. How do other countries view our present programme and our commitments for the future? The evidence is overwhelming that our assistance is welcome and that excellent relations have been built up over the years with recipient countries. Considering the complexities of planning and implementing programmes in scores of countries, it is a matter of great satisfaction that difficulties and friction have been kept to a minimum. Our aid has been usefully employed and the Canadians in the field have acquitted themselves, almost without exception, with distinction. I should say that the Canadian image in the field of economic development assistance is very good. To maintain it, however, the Government will need the support and encouragement of all Canadians in the expansion of our present efforts.

CANADA THE PEACE-MAKER

The conception of peacekeeping forces as part of the peacemaking role of the UN has been of major in-

terest to Canada. Despite differences of view over finances and the problems posed by the withdrawal of the UN Emergency Force from the Middle East, it is the Canadian view that peacekeeping and observer forces are an important factor in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Canadian role in the conception of peace-keeping is almost universally recognized. It is appreciated that we have been among the foremost advocates of improvements in the availability of peacekeeping forces and in their terms of reference. It is well known that we have contributed personnel and funds to almost all the peacekeeping forces which have been created. We have also gained a reputation in these forces for a combination of competence and impartiality. Other countries have repeatedly looked to us for a lead in finding ways of overcoming problems in the future of peace-keeping. We agree that progress must be made so that the UN can meet future crises. If called upon to contribute to a peacekeeping force and if it is feasible and appropriate for us to do so, Canada will be ready to respond.

IEWS ON VIETNAM

Finally, Vietnam. A few days ago at the United Nations, I outlined Canada's position on this tragic war. I said that we must work with ingenuity, imagination, flexibility and a sense of justice toward devising means mutually acceptable to both sides to open the doors to the conference room and bring this conflict to an honourable, negotiated settlement. I went on to say that it seemed clear that all attempts to bring about talks were doomed to failure unless the bombing of North Vietnam stopped. But stopping the bombing, in itself, will not bring the war to an end - concessions must come from both sides and I reaffirmed certain proposals I had advocated originally on April 11, looking to a step-by-step return to the situation envisaged by the Geneva cease-fire arrangements of 1954. I stressed that Canada was ready to help in leading the parties to the conflict in Vietnam to the conference table and to assist in every way to achieve the restoration of peace.

Canada's position in this problem is generally well understood by the world community. It is a position shared by many countries who are not involved in the fighting but are searching for ways to bring it to an end. Agreement on Canada's proposals has not been forthcoming - and the war continues. In the circumstances, our views and suggestions might engender some misunderstanding or irritation by either or both sides involved in the conflict. It is my firm conviction, however, that our efforts in attempting to find ways of bringing about a just and equitable peace, are respected. This peace is, after all, the declared goal of all of us - and Canada intends to pursue this goal with all the practical means at our disposal.

Canada's reputation in the world today is high. But the world is constantly changing and we cannot rest on our laurels. To be worthy of our good name we must continue to pursue sound policies. Nothing would lead more quickly to a bad image than our becoming mesmerized (like an aging actor re-reading an outdated review) by our present world standing....

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