

The decision in March 1964 to establish in Cyprus a United Nations Force (UNFICYP)¹ was of direct concern to Canada. The Force was authorized on the basis of voluntary financing instead of by assessment of the membership, as had been the case for UNEF and ONUC. The formation of UNFICYP did not affect the principle of whether or not peace-keeping costs were a charge on member countries, but it did raise serious questions of burden-sharing within the United Nations. Canada took the view that it was wrong for a minority of the membership to have to assume the costs of a peace-keeping operation authorized by the Security Council, but it took some comfort from the fact that as many as 35 members of the Organization had volunteered financial support.

Another event of particular concern to Canada was the meeting which took place in Ottawa during the first week of November 1964 to consider the technical aspects of UN peace-keeping operations. Representatives of 23 countries attended the meeting on the invitation of the Canadian Government. The proposal to hold such a meeting was first made by the Prime Minister in his speech to the General Assembly in September 1963. He then suggested there should be an examination by interested governments of the problems and techniques of United Nations peace-keeping operations. Following this speech, arrangements were put in hand to convene a meeting. The aim of the meeting was to hold a frank and confidential discussion of the special military problems which had arisen in the course of peace-keeping operations relating, for example, to matters of logistics, training and personnel. The countries invited were those which had made major contributions in men to past peace-keeping operations or which had formed or announced their intention to form standby units or personnel for this purpose. The Military Adviser to the Secretary-General attended in the capacity of observer. It was not the intention of the governments participating to reach formal or agreed conclusions. It was thought that an exchange of views of this kind would be valuable in itself. This expectation proved correct and the general view after the meeting was that participants had gained a better understanding of each other's problems and that their governments would be able to put this knowledge to use in preparing for future requests from the United Nations for military assistance in emergencies.

Following the Ottawa conference, the Secretary-General, in the introduction to his annual report, raised the question of the co-ordination and planning in advance of peace-keeping operations. He said that a number of member states had offered military units to the United Nations on a stand-

¹ See Page 28