



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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No. 64/32 PEACE KEEPING: SOME PROSPECTS AND PERSPECTIVES

Speech by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the McGill Conference on World Affairs, Montreal, November 21, 1964.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honoured to have been asked to address the closing banquet of this eighth annual McGill Conference on World Affairs. I recall with pleasure my attendance at your conference last year. I have also been impressed, over the years, with the contribution these conferences have made to Canadian thinking on issues of current importance in the field of international affairs. I want to say how much, in particular, I welcome the opportunity you have provided for members of the academic community and those professionally concerned with international affairs to meet and exchange their ideas and interpretations of these issues. I am sure there has been mutual benefit in that kind of exchange.

For this year's conference you have selected the theme "Disarmament and World Peace". As part of that theme you have asked me to say something about the concept of peace keeping. I think it is right that I should do so for two reasons: first, because peace keeping is perhaps -- as the introduction to a recently published staff paper of the Brookings Institution puts it -- "the most revolutionary development yet to occur in the field of international organization"; and second, because Canada has played an acknowledged part in the development of this concept and has participated in more United Nations peace-keeping operations than, I think, any other member state of the world organization.

The concept of peace keeping has evolved pragmatically in response to specific situations. It has not evolved along the lines envisaged by the framers of the United Nations Charter. Three examples will serve to illustrate the extent of the divergence:

First, the only explicit reference in the Charter to the establishment of United Nations forces for the maintenance of peace and security occurs in the context of action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression. As things have developed, however, peace-keeping forces have been called into action with the object of preventing trouble and they have invariably operated with the consent of the host country or countries.