

"I believe that five years from now history will say that this Council meeting marked one more good step in the evolution of the Atlantic coalition, for the security of its members and for peace in the world."

There can be no lasting security in a world in which great nations threaten each other, and their smaller allies, with nuclear destruction. The achievement of stable security through general disarmament -- balanced and safeguarded -- is the stated goal of members of the NATO alliance, a goal which has been unanimously endorsed by all members of the United Nations. Disappointing as the results of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee at Geneva have been to date, we must persevere in these complex negotiations. We must persist in our efforts to put an end to the arms race which imperils all mankind.

We must do more. We must strengthen the international capacity for keeping the peace. The notion of international peace-keeping under the United Nations has been firmly incorporated in the programmes for general and complete disarmament. The proposals of both the Soviet Union and the United States envisage the creation of international military forces during the stages leading to a disarmed world. It is obvious, from the bare skeleton of these proposals, that much remains to be done to elaborate and reconcile them before any agreed system of security can be developed. But it has been accepted in principle that progress toward disarmament must be accompanied by the development of effective international machinery for maintaining peace and security.

The Canadian Government is determined to explore and support practical ways of strengthening the peace-keeping methods of the United Nations. We are not deterred by the fact that significant elements in the membership are opposed to the establishment of a stand-by force. We believe that, even in the absence of formal arrangements, there are steps which still can be taken to make the peace-keeping machinery more effective.

Importance of Preparation

As a first step, national governments can improve their own arrangements for providing military assistance to the United Nations. Canadian experience in participating in almost every peace-keeping operation under the United Nations flag - in UNEF, in the Middle East and in the Congo force - has taught us the importance of advance preparation within our own defence establishment. Canada maintains an infantry battalion and facilities for movement control and air transport which would enable us to place troops at the disposal of the United Nations on short notice anywhere in the world. We are constantly reviewing ways of improving these stand-by arrangements.