

(for example, by sending peacekeeping forces), United Nations intervention may tend to prolong a dispute rather than shorten it. Yet in the history of United Nations involvement in disputes there are many occasions where the action taken by the United Nations has been instrumental in saving the situation and in preventing or controlling hostilities.

Conversely, there have been some disputes which the United Nations has not been able to deal with for reasons inherent in its organization and nature. It was never expected that the United Nations could deal with disputes between the great powers, for example; the veto reflects this reality. When one great power, China, is not even represented at the organization, disputes involving China are usually outside the political capacity of the United Nations to influence or control.

Nevertheless, more attention and effort does need to be given to the settlement of disputes at an early stage, before they develop to the point where some form of peace-keeping becomes the only alternative to violence and war. The Charter states that the parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall first of all seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, etc. The United Nations, in other words, is a secondary resource for dispute settlement, and is chiefly concerned with disputes which threaten the maintenance of peace and security. Whether it can act or not depends on the willingness of the parties to find a settlement and sometimes on the willingness of the permanent members of the Security Council to co-operate in recommending or deciding what is to be done.

The Canadian Government has been particularly conscious of these matters over the past 18 months, when we have been serving our third term of office on the Security Council.

I think, in particular, of the Council's efforts to bring about peaceful conditions in the Middle East and to settle the dispute in Cyprus.

Since May 23, 1967, when Canada and Denmark called for a meeting of the Council to consider the situation in the Middle East, the Council has met more than 50 times on this subject alone. The main United Nations presence in the area, the United Nations Emergency Force, has been withdrawn, but some 200 United Nations observers watch over the Israel-Syria and Israel-U.A.R. cease-fire lines, and a United Nations representative has been asked to examine with the parties the basis for a possible settlement. If the Security Council can build on the basic common interest of all concerned, to prevent the situation from becoming a serious threat to world peace, then there may be some hope for a successful outcome. However, the United Nations cannot offer or find a magic formula if none exists. What it has done and can do again is to offer its services as a third-party presence and conciliator. If there is a willingness to co-operate, it can help to work out a solution. If there is no such willingness, the answer to the riddle will have to be found elsewhere.

The situation in Cyprus has also been a special cause of concern to the Security Council in recent months. Last November there was a menacing threat of war between Greece and Turkey, averted only by the timely intervention of representatives of the President of the United States and of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Fortunately, since the crisis there have been