

No. 64/3 Statement by the Permanent Representative of Canada,  
His Excellency Mr. Paul Tremblay, to the Working Group  
of 21, on October 1, 1964.

The Canadian Delegation has been impressed by the statements at our opening meeting of our Chairman and of the Secretary-General. We agree completely with the essence of these statements. In particular, we share the view of the Secretary-General that the common objective of all member states is to see our organization strengthened and made a truly effective instrument for the performance of functions outlined in the Charter. As the Secretary-General pointed out, there is, unfortunately, a wide divergence of opinion as to the means for achieving this objective. The inevitable consequence has been drift, improvisation and reliance on the generosity of the few rather than the collective responsibility of all. The task of reconciling strongly-held and widely-shared views of member states to find a remedy for this situation is one which many have called hopeless. But as we all know, the United Nations has shown a particular capacity for extracting itself from hopeless situations.

We start from the assumption that all member nations, having adhered to the Charter, are desirous that its aims and purposes be given full and effective expression. A logical consequence of this assumption is that, when differences of opinion arise about the fulfilment of the United Nations' aims and purposes, the membership of the organization, individually and collectively, will seek energetically, conscientiously and in a spirit of reconciliation to find solutions which will commend general support.

The maintenance of peace and security is undeniably a primary purpose of the organization and, in the view of most member governments, the constructive measures that have been taken by the United Nations to give substance to this purpose through such peace-keeping actions as UNMOGIP, UNTSO, UNEF, ONUC, and now Cyprus, have brought great credit to it. But it cannot be denied that the United Nations' accomplishments in the field of peace keeping have also resulted in difficult problems and grave dissension, involving particularly the permanent members of the Security Council, which have a special responsibility in these matters and which between them pay at least two-thirds of the costs of the organization.

At this moment, these differences have set the membership on a collision course, which, if not diverted, can only have very grave consequences for the organization, whatever the outcome. It follows, therefore, that it is in the interest of each of us to make superhuman efforts to formulate a modus vivendi for the future to which we can all subscribe. If our search for such a modus vivendi is to be made in good faith, then we must recognize that each of us will have to accept some modifications of previously-held positions and make concessions to the points of view of those who differ with us, concessions made freely as a contribution to the common objective of finding an acceptable solution.

The issues which confront us involve the strongly-held views of sovereign nations - no solution that relies on intimidation will work. On the other hand, if we are to make any progress, we must count on the readiness of each Delegation, when confronted with the hard choices which inevitably will arise, to weigh very carefully the consequences of failure to reach agreement. It is the hope and expectation of my Delegation that, when such tests arise,