

★ Third, the United Nations must have the technical and military capacity to act when required. I have noted that, at your conference in 1964, you passed a resolution that refers to the necessity to organize eventually "world forces as part of an agreement for the general and complete disarmament of sovereign states". After that, the resolution goes on to make certain proposals for the advance planning of peace-keeping operations. Canada welcomes this approach. Last year, as I mentioned, we organized a meeting of representatives of a number of countries with experience in peace-keeping operations in order to exchange information and to prepare our Government better for future operations.

★ What is the peculiar value of United Nations peace-keeping operations in the broad political sense? The benefit to the area involved is, of course, obvious. The broader value is that threats to the peace that might eventually involve the great powers are brought under control before the fighting can spread. We should not rest content with this, however. The absence of conflict does not guarantee peace and security.

★ It is imperative that the United Nations develop further its capacity for mediation and conciliation to bring about a solution to the political disputes that lead to conflict. Here lies perhaps the greatest potential benefit of United Nations intervention. I say "potential" intervention advisedly, for we have made too little progress in this direction. In future, I believe, we must associate more closely the United Nations' twin tasks of peace keeping and peace building.

★ In this present difficult period in the United Nations, we are faced with some basic questions. Are we to go forward in the paths indicated by the Charter or not? The Charter is not a constitution for world government, nor can it provide all the answers to questions that must be debated and negotiated between sovereign governments. The assumption on which it is based and to which all member governments have formally subscribed seem abundantly clear, however. A commentator has referred to what he calls "an unexpressed belief that, for every crisis of world politics, there are certain adequate principles of just action not yet formulated but discoverable and that the United Nations is the agent that, by its nature and constitution, seeks to discover and to act upon these principles". Member governments cannot, if they are to be honest in maintaining their commitment, give only what this commentator describes as "calculated and ephemeral support". Their support must be consistent, wholehearted and imaginative if real progress is to be made towards the objectives set forth in the Charter.

In closing, I should like to pay tribute to the way in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union has recognized the necessity of stimulating debate on international peace and co-operation in parliaments, and beyond them in wide public circles before governments reach their decisions. The drive to achieve collective security through permanent international institutions, which has characterized the best in political thought in this century, has been closely linked to the desire to widen the basis of public interest in foreign policy. The two ideals of democratic participation in policy making and of peace in international relations are being pursued by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on a scale that is bound to assure lasting results.