

some criteria of its own, the most important of which is that the establishment of any peacekeeping operation should be linked to an agreement by the parties to negotiate a political settlement, preferably within a defined period of time. The Special Committee should also give increased attention to the practical implementation of peacekeeping operations and Canada has proposed some recommendations in this regard. Miss Coline Campbell, M.P., delivered the following statement in the Special Political Committee on December 8, 1977:

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United Nations peacekeeping operations are of great importance to the United Nations in its primary task of maintaining international peace and security. Peacekeeping operations can make a critical contribution to reducing tensions in crises and helping provide the right climate for a negotiated settlement of the political problems involved.

Canada is proud of the role in the field which has been played, under greatly varying conditions, by members of its armed forces in United Nations peacekeeping operations. These Canadians, along with their comrades-in-arms from other nations, have proved indispensable in the Middle East, Cyprus and elsewhere.

Nevertheless there are a number of aspects of United Nations peacekeeping operations which could have been handled more effectively with the benefit of advance planning and agreed guidelines. Nor can we be confident that any new operation will run smoothly. This is difficult to justify, given the cumulative United Nations experience related to peacekeeping. Unless the United Nations can implement better the principles and purposes of the Charter, its prestige and authority cannot be sustained on a level commensurate with the hopes and aspirations of those who signed the Charter almost thirty-three years ago.

For many years Canada has attempted to use its experience in peacekeeping to assist in the development of United Nations peacekeeping theory and practice. We are very disappointed by the lack of substantive progress. Peacekeeping was an unforeseen response to emergency situations, after it became apparent that the collective security system originally envisaged in the United Nations Charter could not be implemented. Each peacekeeping operation has been set up on an ad hoc basis. The lack of agreed procedures or guidelines on the establishment and operation of peacekeeping missions has hampered the ability of the United Nations to respond quickly to crises, and to plan and service peacekeeping forces in the field. Troop contributors are especially aware of these problems, for we suffer the consequences directly.