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Text of Statement to be Delivered in the Special Political Committee by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Pierre-Elliot Trudeau, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, On Item 33 (Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping Operations in all Their Aspects: Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations) on December 13, 1966

In taking the floor again at this stage the Canadian Delegation would particularly like, on behalf of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution in Document A/SPC/L.130/Rev.3, to express its satisfaction at the interest demonstrated in this Committee both in our own proposal and, more important for the future of the United Nations, in the subject of peacekeeping in general. A striking feature of our deliberations has been the extent of this interest and the evident desire on the part of many delegations to ensure that a step forward is taken at this General Assembly. Those of us who favour forward movement on this question do not always agree on the best way in which to make this possible. Nevertheless, undoubtedly our common concern is to strengthen the United Nations' ability to play its rightful role in the maintenance of international peace and security, for this after all is the main purpose for which the Organization was established.

Before we come to the vote the Canadian Delegation believes that we owe it to the Committee to make as clear as we possibly can what our position is on the issues before the Committee and consequently on the various resolutions and amendments. I shall take them up in the order in which they were submitted,

My Delegation fully understands and indeed shares the preoccupation of Ireland and the other co-sponsors of the resolution in Document A/SPC/L.129/Rev.1 with the desirability of ensuring more reliable financing in the future. We do not, however, share their view that the answer at this time is to attempt to restore mandatory assessments for peacekeeping operations. Nor do we believe that a failure to do that must necessarily have a disadvantageous effect on the integrity of the regular budget. For our part we continue to feel that a more

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gradual approach on the financing aspect is preferable; and that the guidelines for future financing suggested in the 7-power draft resolution, of which Canada has the honour to be a co-sponsor, will place the United Nations on the right path.

Canada and the other co-sponsors of the 7-power draft resolution have listened most carefully to and noted with special interest comments on the text of our draft resolution and suggestions for changes. We should like to thank delegations who have done us the honour of undertaking a careful examination of our draft. If we are not able to meet to the satisfaction of all delegations the various points which they have raised, it is not through a lack of understanding or goodwill. Rather it is because in our judgement we cannot introduce additional elements, desirable as some of them may be, for the very good reason that we do not wish to upset the balance which our text seeks to achieve between various points of view. The co-sponsors of the 7-power resolution continue firmly to believe that our resolution provides for constructive and useful steps forward; and that it does this in a way which dees not prejudice the fundamental constitutional positions of various Member States. Thus the preamble has been drafted in full respect of all the relevant articles of the Charter, particularly Articles 24, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 35. We should like to reaffirm, therefore, that a vote in favour of our resolution will not represent either a divergence from the Charter or a lack of recognition of the positions of principle of Member States.

We invite members of this Committee to look at our resolution in the proper perspective, as one step forward in a series of steps which must be taken if the United Nations is going to meet its responsibilities and respond to the hopes of mankind. We hope that the Security Council might regard this resolution as an incentive to cope more actively and positively with questions within its specific responsibility. Finally, we would hope as well that Member States would respond to the request to provide information about the forces or services which they could make available if requested to participate in a peacekeeping operation. This information clearly should be made available to enhance United Nations preparedness. Provision of such information in itself does not in our view involve taking any position on the question of authorization of peacekeeping operations.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I should like to speak to the amendments proposed by the distinguished representative of Ethiopia in L.131/Rev.1. I am pleased to inform the Committee that, with the full agreement of the Ethiopian Delegation and of the co-sponsors of the 7-power draft, all of the Ethiopian amendments have been incorporated into our draft with one exception. That is the fourth preambular paragraph in L.131/Rev.1. After careful consideration the co-sponsors of L.130/Rev.3 believe that the inclusion of such a paragraph - which underscores "the need for ensuring the financing" - would upset the balance of our text which deals with more than one aspect of peacekeeping. We would therefore upge our Ethiopian friend to reconsider this additional paragraph. t t t t t

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I think I should confess that we have no exaggerated hopes about what the Committee of 33 may be able to do in the future. Nevertheless the Canadian Delegation, and our fellow co-sponsors, recognize that a significant number of members of this Committee would like to see the Committee continue because of their belief that there is a need to maintain a continuing dialogue. We have, by incorporating virtually all the Ethiopian amendments, recognized the validity of this point of view and have noted, in the words of the distinguished Ambassador of Ethiopia, that "these amendments ... do not bring any change of substance".

There is a further amendment by Cyprus to the 7-power text. This is to be found in L.134. Having considered carefully the purpose of the amendment and the spirit in which it has been put forward, we are disposed to accept it if the distinguished representative of Cyprus would agree to replace the word "voluntary" by "non-enforcement". Thus paragraph 5(a) of our text would read "that it authorize a study of the means of improving preparations for peacekeeping operations of a non-enforcement nature". This change in the amendment would we believe provide greater clarity while preserving the point which the distinguished representative of Cyprus wishes to incorporate into our text.

We also have before us two draft resolutions sponsored by Jamaica, a country which has been a faithful and vigorous supporter of United Nations peacekeeping efforts. The proposal in L.133/Rev.1 seems to us frankly to be redundant, since it deals exclusively with a particular proposal which is already covered by the 7-power draft. The other Jamaican draft resolution L.137 is of a different character. It would appear to assume the termination of the work of the Committee of 33 whose mandate many delegations seem anxious to extend. There is nevertheless an interesting idea in the Jamaican draft which might be considered by the Committee of 33 itself when it resumes its work. We have in mind the possibility of two sub-committees or working groups which, because of their smaller size, might help the parent committee to accomplish its aims more effectively by concentrating on specific areas of interest. If the Committee of 33 is continued we would like to follow up this idea in that forum, hoping meanwhile that our Jamaican friends will not press their present proposal.

Before commenting on L.138, a draft resolution co-sponsored by India, the U.A.R. and Yugoslavia, I cannot help but recall a very old saying - "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery". If that indeed is true, the co-sponsors of the 7-power draft must regard themselves as very flattered indeed given the close similarity between the substance of L.138 and much of the 7-power text. But of course there is one essential difference because the resolution in L.138, while basically reflecting our point of view and of a majority of Member States concerning the importance of peacekeeping, does not enable the Assembly to act in a very positive manner during this session.

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The effect of L.138 would be that this Committee would conclude its work by being content with remitting most of our proposals for further consideration to the Committee of 33. To follow this advice we believe would be unfortunate for two reasons: first, because in the light of experience with the Committee of 33, we cannot help but be aware of the long and difficult road ahead before divergent views will be reconciled and we must question the wisdom of putting peacekeeping efforts off until such reconciliation has been completely achieved; and, second, because we believe that it would have an unfortunate psychological effect on the attitudes of many Member States if this Assembly, when asked to pronounce itself on issues of importance affecting the whole membership and especially the smaller countries, should shirk its responsibilities.

We cannot, therefore, support the proposal put forward in the name of the delegations of India, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.

As the Canadian Delegation sees it we believe that it is an essential interest of the membership of this Organization, and especially of the smaller countries, that in the event of need and of sudden emergency the United Nations should - as of now - be able to act to prevent from the very start small conflicts and disputes from escalating out of control into major confrontations. The great powers, having the strength and power to assure their own security, perhaps do not share the anxiety and apprehensions of the smaller countries; but these latter countries must of necessity depend on collective security which may be available to them only through the United Nations.

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, I should like to make it quite clear that in taking our initiative the co-sponsors of the 7-power draft realized that there were certain differences of opinion on this all important issue based on divergent interpretations of the Charter. This was the reason why after a full year's effort, under the distinguished chairmanship of our friend the Mexican Ambassador and despite his utmost endeavours to bridge the gap, the Committee of 33 was unable to submit any concrete recommendations whatsoever.

We realize that a patient and continuing effort must be made to resolve existing differences. We again pay tribute to the efforts in this direction of the Chairman of the Committee of 33, Ambassador Cuevas Cancino, who in L.139 has placed before us an outline of principles on which an eventual consensus may be based. It would appear, however, that the time for that has not yet arrived.

In order that the continuity of this effort towards consensus may be maintained the Canadian Delegation and the other co-sponsors of our resolution have, as described already, accepted most of the amendments offered by the distinguished Ambassador of Ethiopia. These provide that the Committee of 33 will continue its work, but in the light of some

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decisions taken by this Assembly; first, on guidelines which might serve as a model for contributions to peacekeeping operations involving major expenditures when apportionment among the members is the chosen method; second, by inviting governments to make voluntary offers of assistance of civil and military personnel as may be required by the United Nations, recognizing always that the final decision on making such contributions rests with individual governments; and thirdly, by recommending to the Security Council that they undertake a series of steps to enable that organ more fully to fulfil its primary responsibility in the maintenance of peace and security. In brief this is what the 7-power draft has to offer - we hope it will commend itself to the Committee and the General Assembly.

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