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Peacekeeping

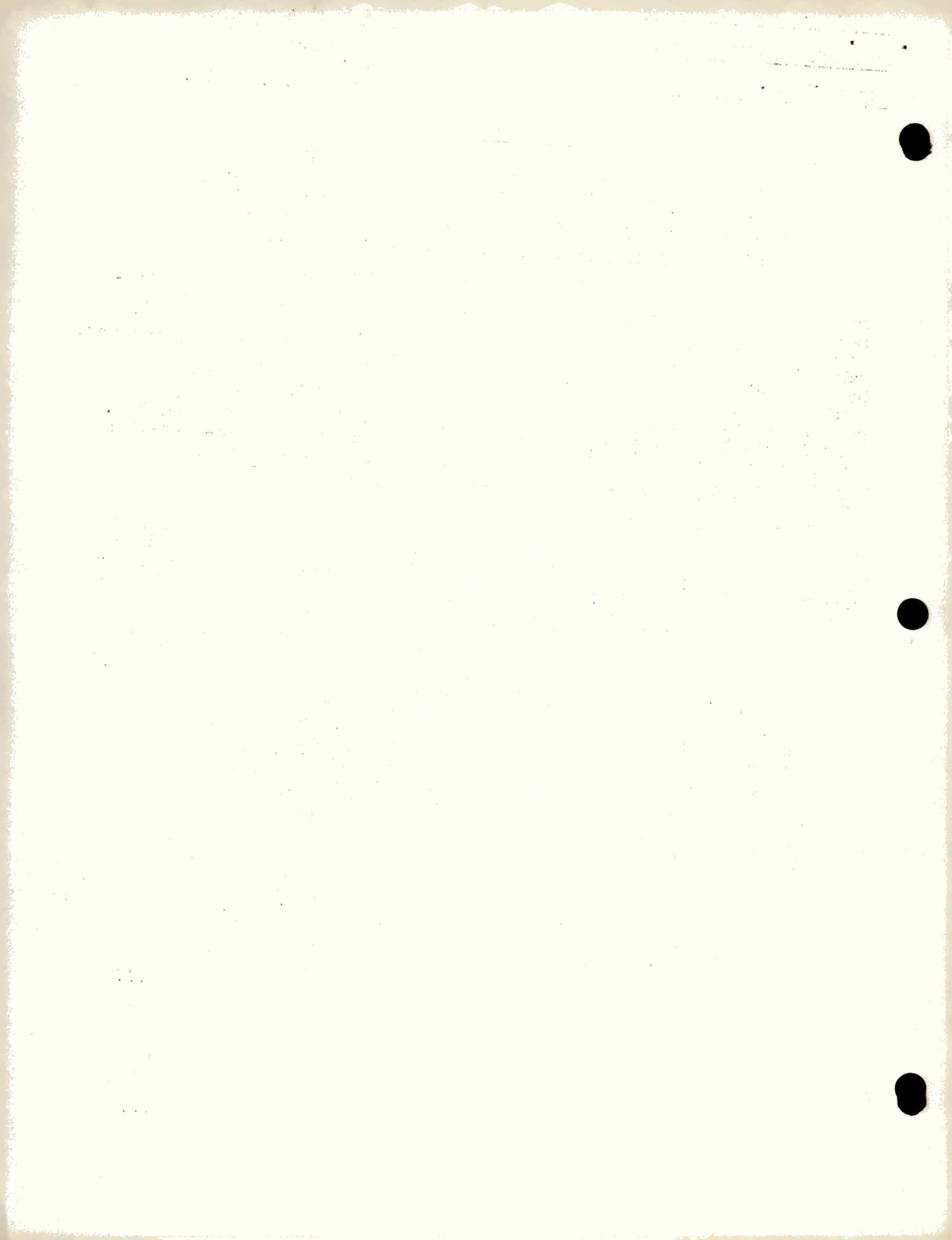
Statement to be made by the Canadian Permanent Representative, Mr. George Ignatieff, on Item 33 (Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping Operations in All their Aspects, in the Plenary Session of Saturday, December 17, 1966.

I have asked to speak in plenary in order once more to make clear our views on the question of peacekeeping and particularly on resolution B which was submitted in the Special Political Committee by Canada and six other co-sponsors. Since the vote was taken in that Committee suggestions have been made by some delegations, both in private and in public, that the adoption of the resolution would in some way be harmful to the United Nations. Indeed a statement was issued only yesterday by a delegation, that implied that certain resolutions would in some degree be contrary to the Charter. It has been further implied that it might prejudice the co-operation of delegations which do not agree with the recommendations which the Special Political Committee, in accordance with the rules of procedures, has adopted.

The Canadian Government and many other governments have, of course, long been aware that within the Organization there are differing views as to the meaning of the Charter provisions concerning peace and security, and especially as to the respective powers of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Over the years since San Francisco our discussion of the constitutional issue has continued. This discussion will have to continue in the future until some day we hope an understanding is reached. Meanwhile efforts have been made in the Committee of 33 to make some modest progress. But these efforts, despite the untiring endeavours of the Chairman of that Committee, have not so far produced any results. In the circumstances it is difficult to understand suggestions that the only suitable course of action at this stage is to remit the recommendations of the Special Political Committee to the same Committee of 33 which has been unable to produce a substantive report to the 21st General Assembly.

It is equally difficult to understand why the General Assembly should not be able to provide for some practical steps forward in this area while the desired dialogue continues. This dialogue of course should continue, the resolution provides precisely for this. But we cannot believe it is the wish of the



majority of Member States that in the present troubled state of the world, nothing should be done in the interval to improve the capacity of the United Nations to keep the peace.

Resolution B was adopted by the Special Political Committee on December 14 after a full discussion - I would say a very full discussion - of a number of proposals and principles. After a number of delays, to allow the maximum time for consultation and negotiations, the Special Political Committee reached the stage of voting on the proposals before it. Resolution B obtained the best vote of the various proposals in that Committee.

It is, Mr. President, a resolution which does not prejudice the position of any delegation. I cannot repeat this too often. The resolution in fact deliberately avoids imposing any unacceptable obligations on any Member State which does not share the view of the majority about the nature and value of the contribution that the United Nations has made, and can continue to make, through its peacekeeping activities. What the resolution has tried to do is first to provide some guidelines in the field of financing subject to further elaboration; second, to invite Member States to make information available about the forces and services which they might provide; and third, to make some recommendations to the Security Council including the consideration of what measures the Council could take to improve the capacity of the United Nations for peace-keeping purposes. All these elements, it seems to us, are in accordance with the Charter and can hardly be regarded otherwise by any examination of this resolution on its merits.

Surely through the years nothing has been more clearly demonstrated by experience than the need for peacekeeping. The resolution now submitted is designed to carry forward, without prejudice to the position of any delegation, the efforts of this Organization to maintain international peace and security in support of the United Nations Charter.

We would hope that efforts which have been made to prevent or postpone a decision being taken during this General Assembly, or to affect it by statements implying the withholding of co-operation by some delegations, will not alter the determination of those who have already voted in favour and may now be prepared to vote in favour of the essential and constructive steps for which resolution B provides.

Mr. President, we all recognize, with great regret, that no consensus is provided for under resolution B on the peace-keeping provisions of the Charter. However, provision is made under resolution B that efforts should continue in the Committee of 33 to seek such a consensus. In the meantime, the General Assembly is

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not required by resolution B to take any final decision. Nor can this resolution affect the rightful powers and responsibilities of the Security Council, and in particular of its Permanent members. We ask Member States to judge the resolution before them in this light.

It would be a sorry day indeed for this Organization and its many members if we were to be deflected from expressing our considered views by the only means **available** to the vast majority of us -- through a resolution of the General Assembly.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions.

2. It is essential to ensure that all data is entered correctly and that the system is regularly updated.

3. The second part of the document outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze data, including surveys and interviews.

