

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

PRESS RELEASE No. 109

December 13, 1967

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

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New York, N.Y. 10017
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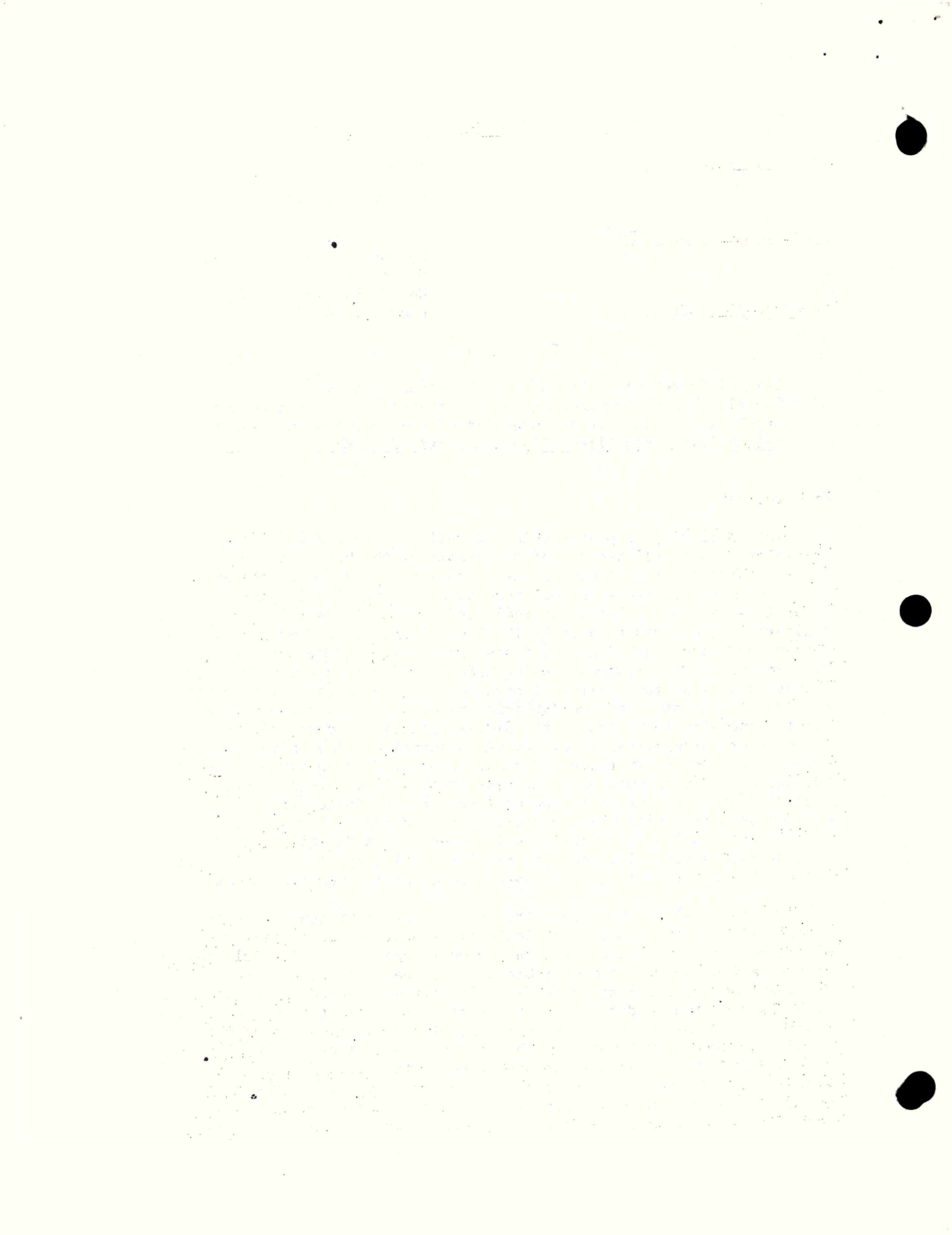
PEACEKEEPING

Text of Statement to be made in the General Assembly by the Canadian Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. Paul Beaulieu, on the question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (Item 37) on December 13, 1967

Mr. President,

The complexity of peacekeeping operations, the widely differing points of view on all aspects of the question, the hopes and fears of Member States for the effectiveness of this organization in the pursuit of its primary purpose - the maintenance of international peace and security - have been abundantly reflected again this year in the deliberations on this subject in the Special Political Committee. Much comment has focussed on the, at times, painfully slow progress we have made in our efforts towards greater understanding of the constitutional issues as well as towards the elaboration of more reliable and equitable methods of financing and improving preparations for peacekeeping. As I had the occasion to remark in the Special Political Committee, however, the pace of our progress should cause no surprise. The United Nations even now has not fully recovered from the Article 19 crisis of 1964-65. Suspicions and attitudes developed during that time have not entirely abated. The consensus of the General Assembly on September 1, 1965, an understanding which enabled the Assembly to resume its normal activities, remains only partially implemented. A deficit in the United Nations financial accounts remains - a legacy of that difficult period when confrontation, not cooperation, was the dominant theme.

Turning now, Mr. President, to the present situation, it is true, I believe, that there have been indications over the past year of some willingness to compromise, of some movement towards more flexible positions on the part of different Member States. It seems to us that the consensus on a special scale of financing almost reached in the Committee of 33 last spring, and the endorsement of a study of peacekeeping in the resolution now before us may be certain, albeit faint, signs of this trend. We earnestly trust that this is so. In that case, the efforts of Canada and the other co-sponsors of Resolution L.130/Rev.4 at the 21st Session of the General Assembly were not in vain. On the contrary, we may consider that those efforts, combined with the endeavours on the part of the distinguished Foreign Minister of Ireland and his supporters,



have already set in train processes of consultation and negotiation which will in time lead to practical results.

The Canadian Delegation proceeds on the assumption that a genuine desire to reach agreed conclusions on various aspects of peacekeeping operations does exist in the Committee of 33. Canada will not hesitate to support and help ensure the realization of such a desire. In the light of the resolution recommended for our approval today we assume that particular emphasis will be placed in the Committee of 33 on the proposed study of facilities, services and personnel which Member States may provide for United Nations' peacekeeping operations in accordance with the Charter. In that case, Canada would be prepared to provide information on all these aspects if that would help the Committee in its work. It is to be hoped that other Member States, whether Members of the Committee of 33 or not, would do likewise and that the unrivalled experience of the Secretariat could be drawn upon as well. While the exact nature of the study remains to be determined the Canadian Delegation would particularly welcome a study which would concentrate on technical questions, such as standardization of equipment and training, although we would certainly not exclude a study of broader scope. These matters remain to be worked out in the Committee of 33 where, under the guidance of our distinguished Chairman, Ambassador Cuevas Cancino, we hope that fresh efforts to achieve positive results will be undertaken.

In regarding positively the resolution before us today, the Canadian Delegation does not wish to minimize the number or nature of the problems which remain to be dealt with. On reviewing our recent debate in the Special Political Committee, however, my delegation has noted the following trends of opinion with considerable satisfaction:

- (a) there is general recognition among Member States that the Security Council and the General Assembly have roles and responsibilities which need not conflict but, in their different spheres, serve to strengthen the capability of this organization to cope with the vital issues brought before it in relation to the maintenance of peace and security;
- (b) there is very wide support for the concept of a special scale for the financing of peacekeeping operations involving heavy expenditures, with the proviso in such cases that the collective contribution of developing countries should not exceed 5% of the total cost;
- (c) there is a growing interest in the need for improving peacekeeping preparations so that the organization can respond promptly and effectively when the need arises;

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- (d) there is an increasing concern that peacekeeping operations, valuable as they are, should not become a justification for inaction by the parties to disputes but should be accompanied by progressive moves towards a peaceful and permanent settlement.

I could not hope, Mr. President, to mention all those delegations who spoke during our debate in a constructive way. But I may perhaps draw particular attention to the very pertinent remarks made by the representatives of Ireland, the United States and Pakistan - to mention only three - on the vital relationship between peacekeeping and peace-making. This relationship is a matter of continuing concern to my delegation. We are strongly convinced of the need to ensure that peacekeeping operations are undertaken as a useful, but temporary, method of leading towards the ultimate goal i.e. - the peaceful settlement of the disputes which made peacekeeping necessary in the first place.

I believe it is also worth noting the suggestions which have been made that the Military Staff Committee might again have a useful role to play. My delegation believes that the Military Staff Committee has been inactive long enough. The considerable expertise and knowledge of its members, and of those who might join them to carry out a specific task, should be made full use of to the advantage of the whole organization. Although provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter, the Military Staff Committee is not precluded by any specific provision of the Charter from doing work which could be of benefit both in the field of enforcement action, which falls clearly under Chapter VII, and in preparations for peacekeeping operations which are of a non-enforcement and voluntary nature.

Mr. President, I could not conclude this brief statement of our views and our intentions without mention of the continuing and indeed growing financial deficit afflicting this Organization. A deficit does exist, and voluntary contributions to eliminate it are very much needed. This is what concerns us, not the question of where the responsibility for this situation should lie.

We are, of course, aware of the understandings - and the misunderstandings - which preceded and apparently followed the consensus of September 1, 1965. We do not wish to dispute the understandings which may have been reached nor to suggest the existence of understandings where none existed. But we do say this: this Organization is in financial difficulties because of constitutional and political disagreements that we are now gradually trying to put aside. What Member States must ask themselves is not what other delegations have said and done - or will say and do. They must ask themselves if they are prepared to respond to the consensus of September 1, 1965; to heed the call for voluntary contributions; to act and be treated in this area as the separate, respected sovereign states which they are. Canada pays its assessments under the regular budget and makes voluntary contributions to a variety of international programmes

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as well. Canada has also, along with twenty-two other States, made a voluntary contribution to help eliminate the United Nations' deficit.

We now urge other Member States, which have not done so, to consider what contribution they may make in response to the evident need and to the consensus reached at the 19th Session of the General Assembly - a consensus which has been endorsed by Resolutions 2053 A(XX) and 2249 (S-V). It is now more than two years ago that the Secretary General appealed to Member States to make these necessary voluntary contributions so that the future could be faced with renewed hope and confidence. Let those who have not done so now do their part as a demonstration of their faith in the United Nations.

