

STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY
OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE
D'ÉTAT AUX
AFFAIRES
EXTÉRIEURES.



STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
THE HON. ALLAN J. MACEACHEN

"CYPRUS"

The Canadian Government views with the utmost seriousness the breakdown in Geneva of negotiations designed to reach agreement on an equitable settlement for the problems in Cyprus and the subsequent resumption of hostilities on the Island.

We were encouraged by the fact that Britain, Turkey and Greece, in Geneva on July 30th, were able to agree on a declaration which seemed to provide an effective framework for a negotiated settlement. We were therefore hopeful that the phase of the talks which began in Geneva on August 8th under the energetic and able chairmanship of the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Callaghan, would result in further progress towards a settlement.

Canada agreed on July 25th to respond positively to a request by the U. N. Secretary General to nearly double the size of our U. N. military contingent on the Island. This action on Canada's part was a reflection of the importance we attach to preventing open conflict in an area of special sensitivity to the maintenance of world peace and of our desire to contribute to the resolution of hostility between countries which have for a long time been friends and allies of Canada. It also reaffirmed Canada's willingness to participate in international peace-keeping efforts under U. N. auspices when we are in a position to make an effective contribution.

Recent events in the Middle East and Cyprus, and in particular the death of ten Canadians while serving with the U. N. peacekeeping forces there, have demonstrated that this role can involve a high price. However, I remain convinced that Canada's peacekeeping efforts have helped to prevent further loss of life and to minimize human suffering. They have also contributed to creating conditions which enabled the parties directly involved to begin their efforts in reaching negotiated settlements. It was for these purposes that the Canadian Government agreed to increase substantially the size of its military contingent on the Island.

I understand that the Department of National Defence has been in direct communication with the Canadian contingent in Cyprus and I understand that to date there have been no casualties to Canadian servicemen in the current fighting. In accordance with U. N. instructions all United Nations forces on the Island have withdrawn to their main camps until an effective ceasefire has been implemented. The Canadian contingent Commander met yesterday, August 13th, with a representative of the Turkish forces on Cyprus and received assurances that Turkey would respect the neutrality and security of all U. N. positions on the Island. Evidence suggests that the disputants on Cyprus have abided by this understanding.

It is my sincere hope that the current fighting on Cyprus, which prevents the renewal of negotiations, will stop forthwith and that the parties concerned will refrain from any actions which could lead to an escalation of hostilities in the region. This would be in the best interest of international peace and the security of the countries directly concerned but most importantly, of all the people of Cyprus.

The Canadian Government was gratified to note the speed and unanimity with which the United Nations Security Council reached agreement last night on a resolution calling for an immediate end to all firing and military action on Cyprus and a resumption of negotiations without delay. This action by the Security Council reflects the growing concern of the international community over the deplorable initiation of renewed hostilities on the Island. I fully support the Security Council's call to the parties concerned and have taken immediate steps to urge upon them the necessity of fulfilling their international obligations. I have today instructed our representative to the North Atlantic Council in Brussels to deliver a statement to this effect in the North Atlantic Council at the earliest opportunity. Further, I will be meeting shortly with Turkish and Greek representatives in Ottawa to express to them the views of the Canadian Government. I am also in close touch with our representatives in the United Nations in New York and we are doing all in our power to impress upon the parties concerned the necessity of complying with last night's Security Council resolution.