

"Spokesman" is quoted as saying: "We didn't expect the underdeveloped nations to like this but we didn't want to set up any high hopes."

In contrast to this attitude was the program presented by the French finance minister, Valéry Giscard, who proposed a system of special preferences to sell products of the poor nations to the industrialized countries, and a network of world commodity agreements to boost the prices of the raw materials they sell.

Mr. Ball's remarks contrasted also with a statement he read from President Johnson. "The great task of our time," said Mr. Johnson, "is to bring the fruits of economic well-being to all peoples in a world of peace and freedom. The nations of the world have gathered in Geneva for the United Nations conference on trade and development to discuss how to move ahead in accomplishing this task. On behalf of the people and government of the United States of America, I hereby pledge our strongest cooperation in this great joint endeavor."

The voice was Jacob's voice, but the hands appeared to be the hands of Esau. The overall effect, unfortunately, was to give an impression of Uncle Sam that was all too reminiscent of what used to be called Uncle Snylock.

UN Delinquents

One interesting feature of the white paper on national defence is that it visualizes Canada's military force, not in old terms of unilateral attack and defence, but as a peace-keeping instrument under the direction of the United Nations or NATO. The re-equipment and re-training of two Canada-based army brigades as a mobile force are postulated for this peace-keeping work.

If every member of the United Nations showed the same concern for implementing its obligations in this regard, it would be fine. But U.S. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson has had to warn, once again, that nations which have fallen behind in payments to the U.N. face the risk of losing their votes in the general assembly, and the Soviet Union in reply has warned that the existence of the U.N. will be threatened by any attempts to enforce the vote ban resolution.

What Russia is saying, in effect, is that it is above the law. If that proves true then the United Nations will have lost much of its usefulness. And, unfortunately, it is largely powerless to discipline a recalcitrant nation and must depend, chiefly, on the consensus of a world opinion to keep members in line. The Soviets can, therefore, refuse to pay with considerable security, demonstrating once again their disregard of the principles on which the United Nations is founded.

Nor are they the only defaulters. France and other nations are responsible, in part, for the fact that the United Nations has more than \$135 million in debt. Future peace keeping operations will have little chance of success unless this situation is remedied.

First Lieutenant

Mr. Leon Balcer has apparently won his fight for recognition as deputy leader of the national Conservative party. He was referred to by Mr. Diefenbaker recently as "first lieutenant to the leader for Quebec and the country as a whole." In a press release in English from his own office, Mr. Balcer styles himself: "leader of the Progressive Conservatives in Quebec and chief lieutenant to the party leader in the national sphere."

Heretofore Mr. Diefenbaker, while ready to recognize Mr. Balcer as first lieutenant, has felt unable to regard him as deputy leader because the constitution does not provide, and never did, for such an office. "It may be," comments the Winnipeg Free Press, "not without a touch of malice, that there is a distinction between a deputy leader and a chief lieutenant in the national sphere. To the layman the difference is elusive but to those instructed in the higher mysteries of the Conservative party it may be clear enough. In any case it seems fortunate that the semantical problem has been overcome and that Mr. Balcer now knows who he is."

