

## CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

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membership; between the membership of those democratic countries such as the United Kingdom and France who are loyal members of the organization and as such take heed of its recommendations and those totalitarian despotisms such as the Soviet Union which treat such recommendations with contempt when they cut across their own national policies.

"This has led to a demand in some quarters that somehow or other United Nations Assembly should take action to enforce effectively its own recommendations. This of course ignores the fact that such compulsory enforcement procedure through the Assembly is not in accordance with the terms of the Charter as drafted; and also that resolutions that may be passed by an irresponsible majority in the Assembly may be such that we ourselves would find great difficulty in accepting them and the enforcement of which we would in certain circumstances resist...."

## ONUS ON MEMBERS

"This leads to another question which causes some anxiety in our minds, and that is the growing tendency in the Assembly, which is of course facilitated by the one-state one-vote principle, and regardless of the powers of state, to force through, by sheer voting strength, resolutions that are impractical and at times quite unreasonable. In reverse there is the power of a minority of one-third plus one to prevent reasonable and useful resolutions of the majority which we may consider ourselves to be both practical, reasonable and desirable.

"Therefore, Mr. Speaker, in a very real sense the effectiveness of this unique instrument for the preservation of peace, the United Nations Assembly, rests with a majority of small nations now operating at least to some extent in blocs. If the group veto or the bloc veto in the Assembly, irresponsibly exercised, replaces the single-power veto in the Security Council, the larger body will soon become as futile as on so many occasions the smaller body has become. I suggest therefore that each member of the Assembly has now a greater duty than ever before to exercise its rights with a clear and unprejudiced understanding of their implications for the future of the organization and for international peace and security. If they do it in that way they will be showing a sense of responsibility.

"The need for a constructive and moderate approach to complex political and economic problems without which the General Assembly will not be able to function effectively and may not even survive can be illustrated (this is only one illustration) by the attitude taken by some members of the Assembly to what

are called the colonial powers. Incidentally, those who use that term at the United Nations often exclude from its meaning the greatest colonial power of all and the one which exercises that power in the most arbitrary and tyrannical fashion, the Soviet Union. The old colonialism is disappearing inevitably and, if the process is orderly, desirably; but that is all the more reason why those countries which still have direct responsibilities for non-self-governing territories should not be made to feel at the United Nations or elsewhere that they are oppressors to be deprived arbitrarily of their rights or indeed their reputations. The actual fact is that these countries for the most part have been leading participants in the great twentieth century experiment of bringing national consciousness and self-government to peoples who have never known them before.

## REFLECTS NATIONAL POLICIES

"There is another danger, Mr. Speaker, which faces the Assembly of the United Nations; the tendency to forget that while the world organization can perform and is performing, as I see it, an indispensable role it is no substitute for the national policies of its members. It reflects those policies, it influences them, but it rarely creates them. I think it is wrong, even dangerous, to suggest that it does or to try to replace the necessity of hammering out wise and constructive policies among one's friends merely by a resort to high-sounding moral platitudes at the Assembly. As Mr. Dean Acheson put it the other day, 'Nothing more comes out of the United Nations than we put into it.'

"I think it is also wrong to rely on United Nations decisions only for a particular area or a particular situation. It should be remembered that if governments are to use the United Nations when they consider it in their interest to do so, and ignore it on other occasions when they find it a less convenient instrument for their purposes, the organization will be very greatly weakened indeed and will be open to the criticism of being merely an agency for power politics. I am not suggesting that these things have happened at the United Nations but I am suggesting that we should watch carefully to see that they do not happen.

"Recently the Assembly took a very important step indeed in extending its functions into the field of security after the Security Council itself became powerless in that field through the exercise of the veto. I refer, of course, to the Emergency Force which was set up to supervise and secure a cessation of hostilities. Now, Mr. Speaker, the immediate value of this Force which now numbers, incidentally, about 5,500 of whom over 1,100 are Canadians, in respect of the specific emergency which brought it into being has I think been well established. Its continuing value