

Now that Canada has accepted what might be termed an advisory role on one aspect of summit talks--disarmament--the series of meetings now in prospect is bound to impose a heavy responsibility but I am sure all Canadians will approve, realizing that on the outcome of these discussions may hang the fate of the civilized world. These are the sort of stakes for which the diplomatic game is being played today.

So much for Canada's part in the great international meetings--and now a few words about our traditional associations with other international groups and with individual countries.

Our Role in the United Nations

Without attempting to arrange these in order of importance, I go on to our role in the United Nations. This picture covers a wider canvas, for it embraces a valuable association with 81 other member nations. This great world organization since its inception has received strong and consistent support from Canada. Certainly the United Nations is not unlimited in its effectiveness and its authority grows slowly; but I remind you that these very limitations arise from the sovereign equality of the member states and from the tensions which prevail in a world divided into ideological camps.

Although it would be unrealistic to believe that the United Nations could achieve solutions of all current international problems, it is equally true that, if the organization should collapse, the world community would have no alternative but to erect a new similar organization in its place. It symbolizes and gives practical effect to mankind's desire for an ordered world and a betterment of international relations and human welfare generally. Without it there would be suspicion, hostility and probably chaos. Canada values highly the obligation and opportunity which United Nations member states have to consult together at regular intervals and to negotiate within the framework of a common objective--world peace.

Indeed, it is in the United Nations that Canada enjoys one of its greatest opportunities to offer constructive leadership. I have been impressed by the respect we enjoy in that forum as a disinterested middle power. The reasons are not difficult to find; no one fears us because we are without territorial ambitions; no one harbours resentment towards us since we have never held sovereign control of an alien people; no one suspects us of coveting his national resources as we are known to have plenty of our own. We have made many friends by gaining a reputation for independent thought and objective judgment on issues that come before the United Nations.

At the recent session of the General Assembly we tried very hard to give constructive leadership. The Canadian initiative which attracted the most attention was our proposal, eventually co-sponsored by ten other powers and unanimously endorsed by the