

Canada was not asking for a "pledge of support since in similar circumstances our policy is not to give any pledge in advance of an election". The response was heartening and indicated general approval of the intention to stand.

14. On September 12, 1947, on the eve of his departure for the Second Session of the General Assembly, Mr. St. Laurent made public the decision to stand in a speech before the United Nations Society in Ottawa. After referring to Canada's candidature as "one further evidence of the seriousness with which we view our obligations in the United Nations", he went on to say;

" This decision in respect of the Security Council has been made only after the most careful consideration. We realize, in the first place, that if we are elected the people of Canada will be confronted with new and onerous responsibilities. We realize also that we shall have the weaknesses and difficulties from which the United Nations suffers brought home to us in an urgent and direct manner that will test to the utmost our confidence in that organization...We shall be forced as never before in Canada in times of peace, to make decisions on major questions of policy arising from situations which exist far from our shores and which some may feel do not directly affect us."

After reiterating Canada's disappointment that the United Nations had fallen short of realizing the expectations placed in it, Mr. St. Laurent said that the Government was not unaware of the weaknesses of the Security Council and that "our influence on that body will be limited by the superior voting powers which are enjoyed by some members of that body". Canada's willingness to serve, however, was determined by the fact that "we in this country continue to believe that the best hope for mankind lies in the establishment of a world organization for the maintenance of peace" and that if Canadians wished to enjoy the benefits of such an organization they must also accept its responsibilities.

15. Following Canada's election, the Department began the preparation of instructions for General McNaughton, as Canadian representative on the Council. This document<sup>1</sup> which was approved by the Cabinet on February 12, 1948, did not take the form of the usual letter of instruction which the department customarily addressed to a Head of Mission; instead it was a broad statement of general principles covering the role Canada was expected to play on the Council. Echoing the sentiments expressed by Mr. St. Laurent in his speech before the United Nations Society, it was recognized that Canada had been placed in a "position of responsibility" and had been given "increased opportunities to influence the course of international developments". These same instructions, however, gave clear evidence that the Government appreciated that General McNaughton's ability to influence the discussions and decisions of the Council would not be made easier by Canada's status as a middle power and its special relations with two of the permanent members, the United States and the United Kingdom. Thus, for example, although it was desirable that Canada should follow a policy of its own, it would "not be easy to secure credit for independence of argument

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1 The complete text of this document entitled "Statement for the guidance of the Canadian Permanent Delegate to the United Nations and Representative on the Security Council" will be found in Appendix 8.