

number from the United States Senate and House of Representatives. A few months ago Canadian Members of Parliament also attended meetings of the Interparliamentary Union. ...

... My officials, as well as myself, are hoping for some useful suggestions from the Members taking part in this debate. It cannot be gainsaid that an informed Canadian public opinion on foreign affairs is vital to the future greatness of our nation. This is one aspect of the whole picture which worries me, namely whether or not Canadian Members of Parliament, and the Canadian people generally, are following international affairs with sufficient care to give whatever Government happens to be in charge of the affairs of this country the backing required for Canada to play the part she can play in the world of today. Make no mistake, no country in April of 1961 has a greater opportunity to take a part and play a worthy role in world affairs than Canada...

Let me put it this way. No country has a greater responsibility. Let us stress the feature of responsibility in world affairs rather than opportunity.

United Nations

I go on, ... to give the House a picture of the world situation as I see it today. In the first place -- I think this is the most important factor -- we have a great world organization actually functioning today, and I refer to the United Nations. Some people scoff at the United Nations, but when you go to New York and see the representatives of 99 nations meeting in that great world body, and when you realize the speed of communications and the fact that world opinion is quickly focused on any vital issue that comes up anywhere in the world, you cannot help feeling that in the United Nations we have the greatest world organization there has ever been. It makes mistakes. The amazing thing is that it does not make a great many more, because of necessity the transactions must be of such a complicated nature. It would repay members to watch events there and to consider that while the United Nations seems to arrive at the edge of the precipice every so often, and while it might appear that in a few days' time the whole organization would blow up, that day never comes.

Just within the last week there was a serious crisis over the financing of the United Nations effort in the Congo. For a few hours that situation looked very serious; in fact one key resolution failed to carry during the last night of the sitting. If things had rested there the result might have been that the United Nations would have been forced to recall its troops from the Congo. But good judgment prevailed; consideration of the subject was adjourned for an hour or so and delegates went out into the lounge...