

The U.N. is a symbol of our conviction that man can meet together and reason together, and find common ground for co-operative action. If the United Nations -- or some such world agency -- cannot succeed, then peace is impossible.

We have not found complete security in the United Nations -- but unless we continue to seek security we shall never find it. Within the terms of the Charter of this world organization, we have developed an area of greater collective security for the nations of the North Atlantic community. Canada and the nations associated with us in NATO are building a realistic defence programme, not for war, but to safeguard national security without war. But even as we make sure of security in our own part of the world, we must work unceasingly to extend it further. The quest for permanent peace must go on.

Looking at it from a Canadian point of view, I believe that this Session has been one of the most significant in the history of the United Nations. Throughout the Session, Canada has spoken with a voice of its own and on several occasions our delegation offered direction in reconciling divergent views on major issues. We also extended the practice of consulting informally with the representatives of other countries in an effort to promote greater understanding and good will between the various delegations.

I am afraid that, at times, we may have confounded our friends by voting with unaccustomed independence and strength of purpose. As an illustration, I might point to the forthright stand taken by the Canadian delegation on the competence of the U.N. to consider certain matters. We maintained, for instance, that the General Assembly had authority to discuss and even to make recommendations on the questions of Morocco and Tunisia and the problem of racial discrimination in South Africa. On the other hand, we indicated our respect for the rights of individual nations by clearly distinguishing between the propriety of discussion of a problem in the Assembly and interference by the U.N. in the purely domestic affairs of a member state.

In colonial matters, Canada -- in view of its own comparatively recent emergence to full nationhood -- was particularly well-suited to the role of impressing on the Assembly the importance of giving full consideration to the complex problems now facing many dependent peoples. Our stand on these matters was watched with the closest interest in view of our position in the Commonwealth. As a full and equal partner, we helped to strengthen the unity of the Commonwealth nations while, at the same time, reserving our right to act freely within the dictates of our own conscience.

In the economic and social fields, Canada continued to give its full support to constructive programmes aimed at raising standards of living in less-favoured nations. In what we are doing through the United Nations Technical Assistance Plan and similar programmes, we are, of course, supplementing the action already taken by Canada and other nations of the Commonwealth under the Colombo Plan.

Viewing the Seventh Session of the Assembly in broad world terms, there is real reason for considerable satisfaction. It met at a critical time in world affairs when the long-protracted peace talks at Panmunjom had reached a stalemate and when, in certain other parts of the world, freedom and security were in jeopardy. It was therefore most gratifying