

APPENDIX I

A. Text of Address given in Ottawa by the Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the Second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, September 12, 1947

...There is one further evidence of the seriousness with which we view our obligations under the United Nations that I should like to make known to you. This is the fact that we intend, at the forthcoming session of the Assembly, to stand as a candidate for membership on the Security Council. Some comment about this possibility has already been made in Canada, but the Government has not previously made known its intentions in this respect formally and publicly. I think it appropriate that I should do so now in the presence of this group of Canadian citizens, and I know that this is once in my life, at least, when I can announce an election campaign and be confident of the good wishes of every person present. We have already informed other members of the United Nations of our candidacy for membership on the Security Council. We have not asked any state to pledge its vote to us, because it is not the policy of the Canadian Government either to seek or to give pledges of this nature. We have, however, asked that sympathetic consideration be given to our candidature and that our qualifications be judged on our record. I may say that the response has been most gratifying.

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. I am sure that the members of this organization are sufficiently familiar with the activities of the United Nations to understand the heavy responsibilities which we are offering to assume. We shall have to increase our delegation in New York, and this will be an added burden on a Department of Government which is already carrying a heavy load. We shall have, at the same time, to maintain at full strength the facilities in Ottawa and elsewhere through which we shall inform our delegation in New York concerning the problems which are on the agenda of the Security Council. Most important of all, 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.

Our faith in the organization will also be tested by the practical experience which we will have of the frailties of the United Nations. I know of no more frustrating experience, either for an individual or a nation,