

National unity is more than skin deep. It is not just a matter of physical bonds, of the economics of running half a continent, or of the shape and structure of our political institutions. The lasting basis of unity lies in the mind and the spirit. The freedoms we have inherited, and the responsibilities which go with them, are its central elements. The essence of the democratic process is found in the deep understanding which must exist on all sides that the unity of the state rests on faith and mutual confidence; and on a tacit agreement that decisions shall be freely reached and not by force but by consent.

#### Record of the United Nations

On this continent, we have shown a capacity for achieving national unity and for harmonizing the aspirations of many peoples. We have demonstrated that a nation like Canada can live alongside a great and powerful neighbour, not in fear but in friendship. But for all the nations of the world, common understanding and calm discussion of mutual problems are as important as they are for us. Can our relationship, which has become so much a part of the North American pattern of progress, hold a lesson for the world?

I think it can. In the United Nations, which is the most far-reaching instrument for international co-operation ever conceived, our two countries are working together patiently with other like-minded nations to help further the objectives of peaceful progress. But we cannot expect miracles. In the short space of eight and a half years, the United Nations could hardly solve all the complex problems that now confront the world. And yet, when history looks back on this period, I believe it will be recognized as a turning point in human affairs. What sort of world would we have had today if we had not developed this agency for collective action, imperfect though it was bound to be?

The record is clear. Because of the existence of the United Nations, some outbreaks of violence have been avoided altogether; others have been brought to a speedy end; still others have been kept from growing into wider conflicts. Because of the impelling moral force this organization has mobilized, almost every dangerous situation over the past eight and a half years has been presented sooner or later to the United Nations.

It was the United Nations that brought an end to large-scale hostilities in Palestine. It was the United Nations that effected a cease-fire in Kashmir and brought the dispute between India and Pakistan within a framework of negotiation. It was the United Nations that created the independent state of Indonesia and, in so doing, not only halted a serious war but assisted a rich and ancient civilization in taking its place in the family of nations. It was the United Nations that took successful emergency action for the relief of refugees and the rehabilitation of many war-torn countries. Above all, it was the United Nations that achieved an armistice in Korea.

While great uncertainties still surround the political future of that unhappy peninsula, the significance of Korea is clear. The United Nations met its responsibility promptly and squarely when unprovoked aggression broke out in Korea. In so doing, it demonstrated