



CANADA

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## THE UNITED NATIONS AFTER TWENTY YEARS

The following statement was issued by Prime Minister Pearson on United Nations Day, October 24:

It is now 20 years since the leaders of the world created the United Nations. From the rubble and ashes of the most destructive war in history the new organization emerged as the hope for coming generations, with the aim of harmonizing the co-operative endeavours of all nations in the service of peace. Twenty years of action, with triumph and failure in the pursuit of the goals laid down in the Charter, have gone by since that October day in 1945 when the United Nations was born. The struggle to banish hunger, ignorance and war continues.

To remind us that peoples and nations can progress only when they co-operate to attain common ends, the General Assembly designated 1965, the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations, as International Co-operation Year. Member states were asked to initiate projects and programmes which stress constructive co-operation as the prerequisite for peace and progress.

### CANADA AND THE ICY

Canada has responded to this encouragement. With the help of the Canadian International Co-operation Year Committee, over 100 non-governmental projects sponsored by business, labour, university, church and other organizations in Canada have been initiated under the theme of international co-operation.

Canada, from the very beginning, has given strong support to the work of the United Nations. It is only natural that, in spite of its belief in the basic conception of world organization, the Canadian public, after 20 years, should sometimes ask whether

the results so far achieved justify the efforts expended. There is no doubt in my mind that in absolute terms, major advances have been achieved by the United Nations family of organizations - in such fields as public health and education, social welfare, fair labour standards, respect for human rights, technical assistance and aid for economic development.

### GOALS NOT REACHED

But what about progress towards the primary goal of the United Nations, the maintenance of international peace and security? The dilemma is that, while most governments and peoples accept the need for the United Nations to play a central role as keeper of peace, states are not yet prepared to seek solutions to all their international disputes through peaceful means. All too often, procedures for peaceful settlement are neglected or by-passed. Nor have we reached the stage where the necessary political, material and financial support is forthcoming on the scale required to enable the organization to take effective measures whenever a crisis occurs. As Secretary-General U Thant has said: "There must be a sound and gradual development of thought and action at the national and international level, if, on this matter of peace keeping, we are to profit from the lessons of the past for a more stable and happier future."

There is no quick or easy short cut to this objective but, on the whole, the peace-keeping record of the United Nations has justified the hope which we in Canada put in this important function. In the peace-keeping field, Canada has been able to make