

And what possible Canadian interests does it serve to have unilateral action rewarded -- whether by Saddam Hussein or other aggressors or others who would respond to aggression?

I do not want to overstate the case. If there is war in the Gulf, it will not be the war to end all wars. But I do not want to understate the case either. There will be no hope to deter aggression, no hope to reverse aggression, no hope to keep peace or to make it co-operatively, if the world fails the UN here.

On June 24, 1955, on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the United Nations, Lester Pearson went to San Francisco where the UN was founded and he made a speech. In that speech he noted the positive, though limited, accomplishments of the United Nations despite the constraints of the Cold War. But he stated the following:

"... the Charter has given us all, great or small, a set of standards of international conduct which it is our duty to follow. ... This week we renew, inwards, our determination to live up to those principles -- above all, to rid mankind of the scourge of war. But, if we are to succeed where all previous generations have failed, words alone will be of little avail. It is not enough merely to set up an efficient international organization and lay down an ideal code of conduct ... It is not enough to hoist the United Nations flag bearing the map of the world ... It is not enough to meet one another in the Assembly ... It is not enough to accumulate more knowledge about each other ... It is the ... application of high principles to individual and collective practice that matters."

Peace has a price. Order is not automatic. Security must be secured. Lester Pearson knew that.

There are, I believe, only two choices before us. The first is to defend our principles and in so doing serve our abiding interests in building an international order which works. The second choice is to avoid conflict at all costs and in so doing to secure a peace which is temporary, a peace which will not endure, a peace purchased at the price of rewarding war.

Let this generation and these United Nations make the right choice, a difficult choice, but one which future generations will respect, not ridicule.