

Organization. A fixed schedule of repayment, allowing for some flexibility, would provide a solution to the arrears problem. But even more important is the question of withholdings which, as you know, threatens to cripple the Organization financially this year. We look to those states which are withholding to follow the example of the People's Republic of China which, without any change in "consistent principled positions" has announced payment of accumulated withholdings of \$4.4 million.

The adoption of the report of the Group of 18 and the settlement of arrears and withholdings would address half the problem. The other half is more basic. There is simply no escaping the fact that worldwide support for this institution depends on its performance. There may be some who think that if the UN were flush with funds, all would be well. But the stark reality is that the UN must be reformed politically, as well as financially.

We are in danger of becoming a caricature of the hopes expressed in 1945. This was to be a forum in which difficult decisions were to be taken; it has become a means to avoid them. When there is crisis, we have endless debate. When there is a need for hard compromise, we draft resolutions which defy agreement.

Our publics are sensible. They want peace and prosperity and justice. They judge the United Nations by what we do together, not what we say separately. They want results, not only speeches. They hear our constant refrain about the need to reform - but if we have stopped listening to ourselves, they too will soon stop listening.

The place to start is with administrative and financial reforms. Obviously, putting our house in order won't put the world in order - but it will protect and strengthen the only organization that can. Canada is a strong friend of the UN, but Canadians who are making sacrifices at home do not want to subsidize inefficiency here.

To be sure, there will be resistance to reform. There always is. We either face it down, or risk slipping back into the shadows from which we emerged with so much hope in 1945.

I cannot believe that any of us here could contemplate such a future with equanimity. None of us pretends that even a fully reformed UN will extinguish racism, unleash a global economic boom, or put an immediate end to every regional conflict. Yet we all know the kinds of contribution that UN