

We have all been shocked by the tragic and symptomatic events which had just taken place in Czechoslovakia. We cannot be undisturbed by such declarations and happenings because it must now be accepted as a fact that practically everything which happens in the international sphere is of interest, often of direct and immediate interest, to Canada. Canada's boundaries are no longer merely geographical. They extend far beyond her physical frontiers. They run, in fact, through the hearts of free man everywhere. On our side of the line are all those in every country who work and fight to preserve the freedom and dignity of individuals against the unbridled impact of totalitarian power and brutal might. There can be no neutrality in this conflict, which is as spiritual as it is political.

Even before the end of the last war, this inevitable interdependence of the nations upon each other brought together at San Francisco all those who were fighting on our side against the Axis powers in an effort to save succeeding generations from the scourge which twice in our own lifetime had brought untold sorrow to mankind.

We reaffirmed our faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person and we resolved to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another and to unite our strength to maintain international security and promote the economic and social advancement of all our peoples.

In the Charter we signed, we all undertook to respect the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other and to refrain in our international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent for the purposes of the United Nations.

We created this great international organization and attempted to provide it with an effective set-up to insure the realization of our high purposes.

Now, we in Canada still have faith in that organization and we are doing our best to make it fully effective.

But so far it has not been fully effective.

It was to take over and maintain peace after peace had been restored to the world, but the making of the peace was to remain the responsibility of those who were making, and who had made, the most effective contribution to the prosecution of the war. The fighting came to an end with the unconditional surrender of our enemies, but the great powers who thus retained special responsibilities and who were given special functions under the Charter have not yet been able to carry into the peace the co-operation which made it possible for them and for us to win the war.

Under the provisions of the Charter, no major decision could be taken without the concurrence of the Five great powers or, in other words, any one of the Five great powers had the right to prevent effective action by the use of the veto. We had been told that this power of veto would be sparingly used and only exercised when the power resorting to it honestly felt that it was in the interest of the whole

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