



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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An address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson at a panel discussion sponsored by non-governmental organizations interested in the United Nations, at San Francisco, June 22, 1955.

It is very fitting that on this commemoration of the signing of the United Nations Charter 10 years ago, your organizations should have arranged these meetings which provide a useful opportunity to consider where we now stand in relation to the United Nations.

The subject which has been suggested, the United Nations, 1945 - 1955 - 1965, suggests a logical and systematic approach in our examination of the problem.

1945 was the year of the signing; the beginning of what we hoped might be a new era of peace, of international co-operation in the promotion of human rights, of social and economic welfare.

1955 is the year after a decade of experience. While a ten year period is a very short time in international life, many steps have been taken during that time which will affect the future development of our world organization. It is useful to examine what they may suggest in terms of its value for the future.

1965 is ten years ahead. It seems a long way from us and, with the quick changes which occur these days in the international scene, it is very risky to forecast what our world will be then. I can only hope that when 1965 arrives I will be discussing with you the prospects for 1975. This will mean among other things - that we shall have escaped the worst, for if there should be a war involving the use of the H-bomb the prospects for such discussions as we are having today - or for anything else - would not be very promising.

1945

In 1945, the most significant feature of the situation as regards the United Nations was the existence of an apparently strong alliance between the major powers of the world. The Alliance which had been formed during the war had fulfilled, or was about to fulfil, its most ambitious military objectives: the unconditional surrender of its enemies. It was assumed that so successful a military association would be continued into the peace and would enable humanity at long last to apply its vast resources to improve the opportunities for the good life