

Criticism of the UN in Canada arose a few years later, from a most unlikely source, and coincided roughly with the 25th anniversary of the Organisation. Serious questioning concerning the fundamental values of the United Nations, and of Canada's commitment to the Organisation, was one product of a foreign policy review initiated by Pearson's successor as Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau. That review, published as a series of booklets entitled *Foreign Policy for Canadians*, was anything but congratulatory.

What is most striking about that assessment of Canada's international relations in the 1970's is the harshness of the tone of the sections devoted to the United Nations, and the implicit – and sometimes quite explicit – repudiation of "Pearsonian internationalism." The harshest indictment came in a long paragraph which focused on what the review disparaged as "unwelcome developments".

The litany of complaints set forth in the government's review of foreign policy included the escalating costs borne by the 26 "developed" members, – the "tyranny of the majority" in resolutions which had to be implemented principally by the minority – and the politicisation the UN administration. The list culminated with a scathing reference to the frequency and length of gatherings concerned mainly with repetitive and largely unproductive debates. Although a few sympathetic words could be gleaned from the review, principally with respect to developing countries, it displayed surprising ignorance of the historical record of the first twenty-five years of the Organisation and was dismissive of its importance for the future. With the demise of colonialism and the consequential influx of so-called non-aligned countries, control of the agenda of the UN had changed hands, and that fact alone seems to have mesmerised the authors of the review.

I emphasize this harsh criticism of the United Nations in 1970 to remind you, as I am reminded, how the Organisation continued to be subject to negative scrutiny in what I term the "late adolescence" of its existence, – and for ECOSOC, and some of the UN specialised agencies, such as UNCTAD and UNIDO, that was not even the nadir of their reputation!

Yet even Canada's diatribe against the Organisation twenty-six years ago did not prevent it from participating actively in the work of the United Nations. Within a few years of the publication of *Foreign Policy for Canadians*, Canada was once again devoting considerable diplomatic energy and resources to UN conferences on the environment and the law of the sea to great effect. Maurice Strong served as Secretary General of the 1972 Stockholm Conference; Marcel Cadieux, Allan Beasley, and other distinguished Canadian diplomats contributed their extraordinary skills to the successful negotiation of the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention. And not long after that verdict of guilty had been pronounced, Canada served its fourth term as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.