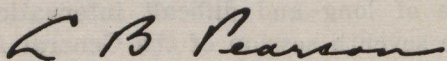


definitive and agreed peace can we hope to bring about unification, political settlement and reconstruction in Korea and make progress towards an eventual solution of other outstanding issues in the Far East.

Though the happenings in Korea have necessarily overshadowed the other events of the past twelve months, these too have been important, both to the United Nations and to the States which compose it. The organization itself now has a new Secretary-General. Since the beginning of the Korean action, Mr. Trygve Lie had worked under a handicap of hostility and obstructionism which finally led him to resign, in the hope that a successor might be found who would be more acceptable to all the great powers. The fact that the Security Council proved able to agree on a candidate, gives us some hope that Mr. Hammarskjöld will be able to carry out his task as an international statesman and administrative head of an international civil service without encountering the crippling difficulties faced by his predecessor. He enters on his duties with well deserved regard and good will.

The colonial and racial issues which were before the seventh session of the General Assembly and were there debated for the most part in a moderate and constructive spirit, nevertheless raised fundamental and far-reaching questions regarding the boundary between those matters which are of domestic jurisdiction and those in which the United Nations is competent to intervene because, according to the convictions held by some members, they have important international implications. These are issues which, when they are further discussed, will demand the most careful consideration and will call upon all our resources of statesmanship and goodwill to resolve. They are issues which if handled and discussed in the wrong way can weaken, indeed destroy, the world organization.

We should not blind ourselves to the difficulties still existing nor to all that remains to be done for the improvement of international relations and the promotion of economic and social progress. But we may draw some confidence from many of the events reviewed in the following pages that the United Nations will yet be able to play its full part in the achievement of international peace and security.



Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Ottawa,
September, 1953.