

possesses no sovereign authority, is different from other organizations – indeed, it is unique. Its effectiveness should not be judged by the standards that might be applied to a national parliament and government.

Global interdependence

In the 30 years since the establishment of the United Nations, the notion of global interdependence has gradually achieved greater meaning and wider acceptance. As common problems have become increasingly more difficult to resolve on a national basis, governments have realized the usefulness and indeed inevitability of consultation and joint planning on issues of global concern. The result has been that in many areas of United Nations activities (e.g. health, the environment, food, employment, population, transportation, communications, and trade), there has been no alternative to a high level of co-operation. Of course, national interests will continue to play a part in the policies that countries pursue. The point is that the pursuit of these interests to the exclusion of common goals is no longer a rational basis for policy. In this respect the United Nations, as the universal agency responsible for promoting and maintaining peace, has achieved a degree of success unforeseen in 1945 at San Francisco. In spite of the resort to confrontation that has at times hindered the work of the United Nations, the best hope for the future of the organization rests with the steady development of global interdependence.

In a letter to the Secretary-General on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations (dated October 24, 1975), the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, emphasized in the following words the importance of supporting the United Nations as the only institution capable of meeting the challenges of the changing international environment:

"At the time of its conception and establishment 30 years ago, the United Nations reflected the values and realities