

THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Following two months of discussions in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization, the representatives of 50 states, including Canada, signed the Charter of the United Nations on June 26, 1945. The Canadian role during the Conference had been an extremely active one and many Canadian proposals were incorporated in the Charter, which came into effect on October 24, 1945.

The Preamble to the Charter expresses the fundamental aims of the 51 original members* and those which have been admitted to the United Nations since October, 1945.

"We the peoples of the United Nations determined

*To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,
which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to
mankind, and*

*To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the
dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights
of men and women and of nations large and small, and*

*To establish conditions under which justice and respect
for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources
of international law can be maintained, and*

*To promote social progress and better standards of life
in larger freedom.*

and for these ends

*To practise tolerance and live together in peace with one
another as good neighbours, and*

*To unite our strength to maintain international peace and
security, and*

*To ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution
of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the
common interest, and*

*To employ international machinery for the promotion of the
economic and social advancement of all peoples,*

have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims."

* Poland was not represented at the San Francisco Conference but signed the Charter after agreement had been reached between the USA, the USSR, and the UK about which Polish Government would be recognized.