

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



CANADA

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 62/7

THE UNITED NATIONS - AN OPPORTUNITY AND A CHALLENGE

An interview between the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard C. Green, and Mr. Delmar MacKenzie of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, on January 25, 1962.

Mr. MacKenzie - Mr. Green, news reports have recently suggested that this is a more serious time for the United Nations than some of the difficult periods it has gone through in the past. I would like your assessment of the period that we are in now. Will the UN become stronger, or will it go the way of the League of Nations, as some have suggested?

Mr. Green - In my opinion the death of the Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjold, last fall was by far the most serious problem of recent years. There are still extremely serious problems facing the United Nations, but that was a crisis that might very well have resulted in the break-up of the United Nations. However, a strange thing happened. Mr. Hammarskjold's death brought a very clear realization to all the delegates except those from the Communist countries (which have, you will remember, been attacking Mr. Hammarskjold for years) that the preservation of the United Nations was absolutely essential to their own survival and that it was the greatest asset that each of them had. They made up their minds that they were going to get through this crisis in one way or another, and, as you know, after a number of weeks unanimous agreement was reached on the appointment of a successor.

U Thant has been doing exceedingly well since he took that job.

I do not think there is any question of the United Nations going the way of the League of Nations.

Mr. MacKenzie - Do you believe that it has stronger roots than the League of Nations had? What safeguards does the United Nations have that were not there at the time of the League of Nations?