



# Statements and Speeches

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## PRINCIPLES OF UN CHARTER SIGNPOSTS TO PEACE

Statement by the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister, to the United Nations General Assembly, New York, October 23, 1985.

Mr. President, I would like to speak with you today about people and nations working together.

History shows that the solitary pursuit of self-interest outside the framework of broader international co-operation is never enough to increase our freedom, safeguard our security, or improve our standard of living.

Since 1945, we have not had a world war. But we have lived for decades under the threat of an ultimate catastrophe, one which would unleash immeasurable forces of destruction. The same human genius which conquered outer space has also wrenched from nature the secret of devastation.

In our search to create, we discovered the ability to annihilate. Anxiety has become a fact of daily life. It can be seen in the arts; it permeates political activity; it alters social structures; it shapes mentalities.

How can we help but fear our adversaries, when they too are equipped with an inventive and lively intelligence, when they too have mastered the destructive power of the atom, and above all, when they are filled with the same fear that so preoccupies us — a fear exacerbated by the fact that the strong must also be wary of the anger of the weak. We have even gone so far as to institutionalize fear, to the point that peace itself is based on a balance of terror.

Can we blame the UN for having been unable to put an end to the vicious cycle of force and fear, of injustice and violence? In my view we cannot blame the UN for problems that have been caused essentially by self-centred nationalism and our own failures. We must not make the UN a scapegoat for our inability to recognize and accept diversity in the world. We must not blame the UN for weaknesses that result from its being a mere human creation.

While the UN may seem powerless in the face of the circumstances that confront it, it is nevertheless all we have. The men and women who created this organization in 1945 hungered for peace and justice and were guided by high principle. They sought to create a global forum where they could voice their hopes and fears, their dreams and regrets.

In this organization, nations have the opportunity to bring reason to their relations, to break the chain of violence, to defuse the lust for revenge, to voice their needs, and to affirm their dignity. And, in the end, to realize the extent to which they share membership in the same species.

In the end, we must always return to consideration of humanism. Humanism generates and shapes

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