

Experience has shown that, when the world is at war, we cannot remain out and the part we have played in bringing to a victorious conclusion the two terrible world wars of our own generation has been an important and a costly one. That fact has no doubt had much to do with our decision to be present in peacetime international organizations.

This is what Mr. Ilsley said over the air the other evening, as the explanation of Canada's interest in the United Nations:

"The United Nations, with all its imperfections, offers the best hope the world has for the preservation of peace. If the United Nations can only keep the world out of war every Canadian should be devoutly thankful.

"Canada's sacrifices in two world wars have been enormous and Canada's capacity for preventing war by her own separate efforts is just about nil. There may be something to be said for the position of one of the Great Powers which decides to rely on its own strength or on an alliance with other powers to maintain the peace of the world. But there is nothing to be said for the capacity of a small country like Canada, by its own separate efforts or by contracting power alliances, to keep the world out of war.

"So we must do everything we can to make the United Nations succeed. Every political party in Canada agrees that this must be done. So does every newspaper, so does every thoughtful Canadian. It is very easy to scoff at the United Nations, to point to its cost, its talkativeness, its disagreements, its shortcomings. But we really have no alternative but to support it with all our might."

We really have no reason to be surprised, though we may be disappointed, over what has been going on in this field of the United Nations' activities - the fact, for instance, that majorities do not seem to be able to make their views prevail, and the like. I say we need not be surprised because we are, all of us who have become members of the Organization, somewhat responsible for that condition. It is just a part of the aftermath of the war years or the carrying over into the years of peace of the procedures which prevailed with everybody's consent during war.

During the war, the Allies had to act quickly and they had to act concertedly and, in order to get concerted and rapid action, discussions and decisions had to be left to very few people. They were in fact left to the leaders of the Big Four, the United Kingdom, the United States, the U.S.S.R. and China, with a provision for the adjunction of France, if and when France again became mistress of her own destinies.

The rest of us were kept advised of the discussions that were being held and the decisions that were being made and, of course, we in Canada were in a rather favoured position because of the intimate personal relationship between our own Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the President of the United States. Each time Mr. Churchill visited Washington, it so happened that Mr. King was also in Washington and when the two major conferences were held in Quebec in 1944 and 1945, Mr. King and the Canadian Government were the official hosts of the conferees at the Citadel and at the Chateau Frontenac in the city of Quebec.