

As one of the original members of the United Nations, Canada has taken an active part in its deliberations and has given whole-hearted support to its varied efforts to promote world peace and understanding. It was, therefore, a source of deep satisfaction and encouragement to us all that the Government of Canada was able to make some contribution to the membership negotiations, the outcome of which will undoubtedly strengthen the United Nations and enhance its influence in international affairs.

The election of sixteen additional members means in fact that there is now a new United Nations -- a United Nations of 76 instead of 60 members. Not only has the membership of the organization been increased by one-quarter, but representation has been given for the first time to more than 150,000,000 of the world's peoples from the four corners of the earth.

Historic European nations like Spain, Portugal and Finland will take their places around the world conference table for the first time. Italy with its ancient legacy in literature and the law, and Ireland, island home of poets and singers, will add their voices to the discussion of world problems. The new states of Laos and Cambodia will sit down side by side with Austria, one of the great centres of old-world diplomacy. Then, too, there will be representatives from the Arab kingdoms of Jordan and Libya and Asiatic states like Nepal and Ceylon, the birthplace of the Commonwealth Colombo Plan.

We approached the membership question in the only way that would be consistent with the ideals of a Christian and democratic country. For we believe that the United Nations was never intended to be an exclusive club with membership restricted to those who happen to think alike or share the same ideals and traditions. Rather it was envisaged by its founders as a meeting place to which all nations could bring their problems and receive a hearing before the bar of world opinion. And we are not ashamed to pit our way of life against those godless regimes in which individual human values are of little or no account.

We who believe in freedom know the value of frank and open discussion in solving the many problems which confront us in our community and national life. The same opportunity should be given to the nations which make up the world community. I am confident that the introduction of these new voices -- though some may be discordant -- into the councils of the United Nations will contribute to its effectiveness in dealing realistically with the many vital issues that divide the world in these troubled times.

Secondly, it must be remembered that the only way in which it was possible to break the deadlock of the past ten years was through a so-called "package deal". Because all other formulas had been rejected by one side or the other, a compromise was necessary. In order to bring into the United