

UNITED NATIONS DAY

The following statement by the Prime Minister was issued on the occasion of United Nations Day October 24:

Today marks the twenty-third anniversary of the creation of the United Nations. Over the years, governments and peoples round the world have come to regard October 24 as an occasion for rededicating ourselves to the principles of international order and morality set out in the Charter. It is appropriate on this occasion to reflect on the present state of the United Nations organization and the difficulties which must be overcome if the organization is to remain a viable and dynamic instrument.

The basis of the United Nations is the pledge of sovereign states to co-operate in order to maintain international peace and security, to solve pressing problems of an economic and social character, and to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

As the United Nations approaches the mid-point of its third decade its character and procedures are changing. The items on the agenda of the General Assembly and the Security Council are vastly different from those of 1945. There are now 125 member states compared to the 51 original members. Disagreements among the great powers caused changes in thinking and emphasis, which in turn meant that the middle and smaller powers, such as Canada, have had to take on greater responsibilities. Perhaps the greatest change has occurred in the fields of economic and social development, and of human rights. The United Nations now acts as a catalyst for peaceful change in the economic field, rather than being simply a forum for debate and discussion, as in the early years. And in the area of human rights, United Nations declarations and conventions set the accepted standards for state behaviour.

The prevailing international situation has had its effect on the United Nations. Secretary-General U Thant has reported that during the past year "little progress, if any, has been recorded towards the growth of international order based on law and justice. On the contrary, there has been a serious decline in the standards of international ethics and morality, with states relying increasingly on force and violence as a means of resolving their differences".

The Secretary-General has warned us that if this tendency to return to force as a means of national policy is not reversed then the future of international peace and security is indeed a dark one.

We in Canada, when reflecting on the shortcomings as well as the accomplishments of the United Nations, should always remember that it is the member states which have the responsibility to give it life and a sense of direction. It is for the members to decide what kind of organization they want. Only they can provide the United Nations with the strength and resources required to meet the increasing demands placed upon it. And only states can provide the will for peace and matching action

needed to overcome the present malaise and reinvigorate the United Nations.

TASKS AHEAD

The Canadian Government believes that in the months to come we must be ready to seize any opportunity for a serious and constructive discussion of the issues that divide East and West. We have urged at the United Nations that negotiations to end the arms race be pursued vigorously. Canada is also in complete agreement with the Secretary-General that a most helpful step in these times would be the strengthening of the peacebuilding and peacekeeping capability of the United Nations system.

The year 1968 has been designated the International Year for Human Rights. In recent months, the world has witnessed an increase in violence, often in protest against alleged infringements of human rights, coupled with economic and social injustice. We must view such violence as a phenomenon capable of being understood and, through understanding, susceptible of restraint and eventual elimination. Youth now challenges a world that has shown it is capable of the achievement of plenty but falls short of its possibilities. One of the major tasks facing the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies is the promotion of the economic and social well-being of all peoples, in conditions where basic human rights are not only acknowledged but implemented. In this endeavour, perhaps the greatest challenge of our age, Canada is determined to play a full and active role.

In concluding, I wish to pay tribute to the many non-governmental organizations in Canada, such as the United Nations Association and the Canadian Committee for UNICEF, which have done so much to make Canadians aware of the work of the United Nations family. They have an important role to play. I am sure that I speak for all Canadians in pledging our renewed support to the United Nations and the Secretary-General on United Nations Day 1968.

A RICH RESOURCE OF THE SEA

Seaweeds, in particular the one known as Irish moss, are of growing importance to a number of Canada's Atlantic fishing communities. In the past 25 years, the Irish moss harvest in the Atlantic Provinces has grown from about 1.5 million pounds (which sold for \$30,000) to 79.3 million pounds, worth \$2.3 million to the fishermen. The weights quoted are for wet moss, one ton of which yields about 150 pounds of carrageenin, a gelatinous extract that gives the plant its greatest importance.

Carrageenin, widely used in food processing and other industries, is in great demand, and is worth from \$1.75 to \$3 a pound. The name is derived from that of the Irish village of Carrageen, near Waterford, where the value of Irish moss was recognized many years ago.

Irish moss (*Chondrus crispus*) looks something like parsley, although it varies in colour from light green to purple. It is a small marine plant found