



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 65/17

CANADA AND THE EVOLVING UNITED NATIONS

An Address by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the United Nations Association of Canada, Montreal, June 4, 1965.

I am honoured that you have asked me to join you at your annual meeting and to speak to you this evening. As some of you know, my connections with the United Nations Association reach back to its predecessor, the League of Nations Society. That is now a period of some 40 years. Thus I think I can fairly say that I know the good work you are doing. I may also claim to have some understanding of the problems you are facing.

If I may paraphrase a passage from a recent essay by Mr. Livingston Merchant, the former United States Ambassador to Canada, the diplomacy we conduct in the modern world is no longer a dynastic diplomacy; it is a democratic diplomacy. This means that those concerned with foreign policy must always bear in mind that their work is subject, in the final analysis, to the approbation or disapprobation of public opinion. This is inherent in the democratic process, but it also underlines the need for public opinion to be fully informed. I know this is one of your main objectives as far as the United Nations is concerned and I think you have met it with excellent results.

I should like to single out in particular your work amongst young Canadians. I am pleased to see that you give priority to them because your efforts in that direction will help to assure the interest of coming generations in world affairs. It will help to assure their continued support, in the years ahead, for the principles and purposes of the United Nations.

I should also commend you for the help you have given to certain programmes of the United Nations. In this International Co-operation Year, I am especially conscious of your efforts in sponsoring the organization of ICY in Canada and the part that you continue to play in putting across its aims and objectives. ICY has caught the imagination of Canadians and Canadian organizations have undertaken more than 100 projects in its name. Without discounting the part the Government has played in promoting the conception of ICY, I am happy to acknowledge that it is the private organizations which have given real dimension to it.

That is as it should be. For the United Nations is an organization of people. It is "we the peoples of the United Nations" who stand committed to the pledges and determinations set forth in the Charter. It is fitting, therefore, that Canada's efforts in International Co-operation Year should,