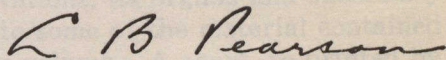


to worry about the United Nations if the debates ever degenerated into an elaborate exchange of meaningless courtesies which avoided any realistic reference to outstanding issues and disputes. Then, indeed, futility would have been reached.

After seven years the United Nations is still a young organization, still largely an experiment. But one thing has become increasingly evident. Despite the disappointments we have all encountered, there is no doubt that the spirit of interdependence in the world is growing. Today there is more contact, diplomatic and otherwise, between peoples of different races, religions and cultures than at any time in the world's history, and much credit for this is due to the United Nations. An exception exists, of course, in respect of those countries of Eastern Europe and of Asia which have chosen — or have been forced by their despotic leaders — to cut themselves off from contacts with the rest of the world. Elsewhere our increasing contacts with each other are slowly reducing the ignorance and mutual suspicion which have in the past proved such a fertile breeding ground for war. The progress is slow, but it is in the right direction and is constantly being made, often in United Nations bodies which receive very little publicity. We must not, then, think of the United Nations solely in terms of the bitter disputes which now loom so large in the headlines. Our hope for the future of our world organization has a deeper and more solid foundation than these headlines would suggest. The battle against ignorance and prejudice and, yes, even against fear is steadily and perseveringly being fought. It must continue until one day victory is achieved.



Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Ottawa,
September, 1952.