

international relations and human welfare generally. Without it there would be suspicion, hostility and probably chaos. Canada values highly the obligation and opportunity which United Nations member states have to consult together at regular intervals and to negotiate within the framework of a common objective — world peace.

Indeed, it is in the United Nations that Canada enjoys one of its greatest opportunities to offer constructive leadership. I have been impressed by the respect we enjoy in that forum as a disinterested middle power. The reasons are not difficult to find: no one fears us, because we are without territorial ambitions; no one harbours resentment towards us, since we have never held sovereign control of an alien people; no one suspects us of coveting his national resources, as we are known to have plenty of our own. We have made many friends by gaining a reputation for independent thought and objective judgment on issues that come before the United Nations.

At the recent session of the General Assembly we tried very hard to give constructive leadership. The Canadian initiative which attracted the most attention was our proposal, eventually co-sponsored by ten other powers and unanimously endorsed by the Assembly membership, to encourage the world-wide collection and central collation of more accurate information on radiation. We took this initiative in the knowledge that even if nations agree to stop testing nuclear weapons, the problem of radiation will not vanish. It seems imperative that the substantial gaps which exist in our knowledge of this frightening phenomenon should be filled, and that research into the biological effects of radiation should be based upon the fullest and most reliable information possible. I was greatly heartened by the enthusiasm with which the Canadian people greeted this initiative and by the complete support it received in the United Nations.

In other and perhaps less spectacular matters the Canadian Delegation was also active. During the previous year Canada had been a member of the Outer Space Committee, and some useful work in the technical and legal spheres was accomplished. However, the Soviet Union declined to participate because of the make-up of the Committee. If the Committee was to succeed the Soviet Union must take part and accordingly some change in the composition of the Committee was necessary. The Canadian Delegation applied itself to this problem and eventually a change was agreed upon which satisfied the West, the East, and the uncommitted countries — so there is now hope of worthwhile results being achieved, and Canada is a member of the new committee.

We also continued our humanitarian contributions to the several United Nations programmes for refugees and took a lead, which we hope other nations will follow, in marking World Refugee Year with a special Canadian project for the admission to Canada of 100 tuberculous refugees and their families. In this endeavour the Federal Government has had the welcome support of most provincial governments, not including British Columbia!

Towards United Nations efforts at peace-keeping and peace-supervision, Canada continues to make a contribution in which, I think, we all can take pride.