



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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No. 52/51 An address delivered by the President of the Seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. L. B. Pearson, at the dinner of the American Association for the United Nations, New York City, October 23, 1952.

...In building this great home for the United Nations I am quite sure that all who laboured on the problems of construction thought first of its foundations realizing that the base on which the superstructure was to rest must be the starting point for all that followed. We would do well, as we pause tonight to think for a moment about the United Nations and the great complex of agencies and activities for which it is responsible, to reflect for a few moments on the foundation on which these activities rest. Without its solid establishment, the superstructure of our hopes and our dreams for achieving the aims of the Charter would -- sooner or later -- crack and crumble away.

Our foundation is anchored on the purposes which the United Nations are intended to serve. Those purposes are inscribed in the preamble to the Charter, itself. Let us never forget, amid the perplexities and discouragements that surround us, that the ultimate aims of our Organization have not changed. Only men and policies have changed in the seven long years since the Charter was written; since those days in San Francisco when we glimpsed the promised land which men, victorious against aggression and tyranny, had been given a second chance to reach,

To achieve these ends, the "Peoples", not governments or parliaments or dictators -- the "Peoples" pledged themselves to practise tolerance and to live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, to unite their strength to maintain international peace and security, to ensure that armed force would not be used save in the common interest; and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all.

These remain today the aims of the United Nations, which we have been striving to achieve and which we must not abandon. These are the principles that underlie the plans and the action for collective security which we have taken; the measures to effect peace between warring states, the efforts to develop and extend the whole range of economic, social, cooperation over a widening area of the globe; the programmes of technical assistance; the humanitarian work of the specialized agencies; and the movement that has steadily led to independence and self-government. These principles provide the framework for the consideration of the host of problems with which the seventh session has just begun to deal. If we remain true to them, they are capable