No. 53/41   UNITED NATIONS DAY

Statement by the Secretary of State for
External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, used
on United Nations Day C.B.C. Television
Programme, October 24, 1953.

Today, on this eighth anniversary of the coming
into force of the United Nations Charter, the whole
world will be observing United Nations Day.

The tribute to the United Nations which will
be paid in many different ways in many different parts
of our own country reflects the deep conviction that
what the United Nations does - or does not do - is of
vital concern to Canada and to every Canadian, as it is
to peoples everywhere.

Eight years ago at San Francisco, Canada was
proud to share in the task of drafting the Charter which
has been our guide in these critical post-war years. All
of us who were there were deeply conscious of the
responsibility we shared for drawing up this blueprint
for future peace.

We have, however, in the long and hard years
since the Charter was signed, learned that it is easier
to produce a blueprint than to build the structure of
peace. The U.N. has had failures and disappointments.
But it has also had its achievements, political, economic,
social and humanitarian. The achievements should hearten
us, and the difficulties become a challenge which should
spur us to greater effort in the cause of international
co-operation for peace and progress.

Nothing that has happened since the days of
San Francisco has altered, or can alter, the fact that
the principles of the Charter remain valid today as
guides to international action. There are many these
days who are discouraged and downhearted about the
United Nations. They should be discouraged instead about
the state of the world in which the United Nations has
to operate. One thing, however, we can say without
qualification; that state would be worse if the United
Nations were not there as a forum in which issues can
be argued and solutions can be sought.