

suggestion. She said that Canada has the opportunity to become "the first international nation". The phrase is paradoxical, of course, but a paradox can contain a truth, or as in this case, offer a challenge. Perhaps Lady Jackson wanted to suggest that in a world made up of nation-states, and likely to remain so in the foreseeable future, it is still entirely possible for a nation-state to see itself not as an island entire in itself, but as a part of the main, to adopt John Donne's words.

It is this viewpoint that the Canadian Government adopted in a recent basic and exhaustive review of our foreign policy. The process of review has taught us many things about ourselves, and about the world we live in. In particular, it has brought home to us how interdependent the world has become, in terms of power and politics, in terms of the economy and in the very terms of man's life on earth. Independence, on an individual basis or as a political entity is dear to man's heart. Millions have fought and died to achieve it and some are still doing so. Perhaps it always was a relative term, certainly it is today. Nations can and do enjoy a measure of independence, but it can only be enjoyed with a much greater interdependence. Not even the superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, enjoy full independence today. We have, therefore, sought to base our foreign policy on the national aims of the Canadian people, shaped by the constraints and opportunities of the prevailing international situation....

VITAL ROLE OF THE UN

It is a fortunate thing for Canada that your meeting here coincides with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, and that it gives us another opportunity to welcome the Secretary-General whose name and work are honoured throughout the world. Of all the attempts to bring order into the world community, going back as far as the *Pax Romana*, the



The Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, (left) chats with UN Secretary-General U Thant on August 24.

United Nations is the most significant and the most successful. It is sometimes suggested that the United Nations has outlived its usefulness. Canada categorically rejects that position and that interpretation. I for one, as a man who must live in the world and as a foreign minister who must take part in its councils cannot envisage a world without the United Nations. It is true that in my speech on behalf of Canada at the General Assembly last year I voiced certain criticisms and certain doubts about aspects of the United Nations' procedures and operations. I did so on behalf of a country that has been an active participant in the work of the United Nations since its inception, a country that is fully committed to the principles in the Charter and that will continue to play its full part as a member state....

Over the last several years the United Nations and its Disarmament Committee in Geneva have made real progress in the field of arms control. In 1970 the Non-Proliferation Treaty came into force – the most important achievement to date. Very shortly the Committee should reach agreement on the draft text of a treaty banning weapons of mass destruction from the seabed, which we hope will be endorsed by the General Assembly and opened for signature shortly thereafter. It is also encouraging that, parallel with these efforts in the United Nations, the United States and the Soviet Union are pursuing their negotiations on measures to curtail the strategic arms race in both offensive and defensive missiles.

I said earlier that the United Nations has not played the role in peace-making that its founders foresaw. But we must acknowledge the intractability of the problems it has had to contend with. In the tragic Middle East conflict, for example, the only generally acceptable machinery for peacekeeping and peace-making endeavours has been United Nations machinery. It is in the United Nations context that the Great Powers have been seeking to bring to bear their invaluable influence toward promoting a settlement. It is a United Nations ceasefire which has at last been restored, opening the way for possible movement toward peace talks. If, as we earnestly hope, these talks are successfully launched in the weeks ahead, it will be under the aegis of the United Nations Secretary-General's special representative, Ambassador Jarring, that the search for peace will go forward. Facing such problems, I ask myself, without an organization having the global stature of the United Nations, where would we turn?...

INTERNATIONAL LAW

The field of international law is one of fundamental importance, and a field of endeavour in which Canada has been active for many years. The work of the United Nations toward the development of a body of law to govern outer space is an example of how the nations working together can anticipate problems that are still, perhaps, far off in the future. The work of the International Red Cross Conference on international humanitarian law held last year in Istanbul is