

to issues which, in a dynamic world, arouse strong passions and directly concern the fate of many millions of human beings.

The United Nations Charter

For the most part these problems have been considered in a spirit of moderation. These great issues cannot be determined by a rigid and formal reference to the letter of the Charter. I would think that the Charter of the United Nations could be compared in some ways with the constitution of a nation. A constitution must have some flexibility, and must never become the master but should always remain the servant of the people. The same thing, I think, should apply to the Charter of the United Nations, so that on occasion amendments should be brought forward in order to have a Charter that will suit in a better way the general interests of this organization.

Nationalism, Colonialism and Racialism

It must be recognized that the force of nationalism, to which I was referring, and the urge for independence are among the strongest and most explosive elements in the world today. In seeking to direct these forces toward the path of order and non-violence the United Nations has one of its most important roles to play. Such problems arose in the case of the items dealing with Morocco and Tunisia, to which the Leader of the C.C.F. (Mr. Coldwell) referred this afternoon, and other problems relating to the development of self-government and charges of racial discrimination were also discussed.

Here delegations faced alternatives not easy to resolve or reconcile. Here were problems on which the Asian and Arab states feel particularly strongly, because to them the rights and wrongs of the case are so clearly defined. Because of this they perhaps found it difficult to understand why, in the voting in the General Assembly, the Canadian Delegation was not able to be always fully on their side, and at times had to oppose them. The basic reason for this is, I think, the difference of emphasis which we on the one hand, and the Arab-Asian states, on the other, place on the many factors which enter into the problem. We in the Western world and the Arab and Asian states are in principle united on basic aims. It is on the choice of the best means to achieve them that we sometimes differ.

The Canadian people know too well the price to be attached to freedom of government not to be in accord with other countries which are now striving towards the same end. As citizens of a country which has gradually and peacefully transformed its status from that of a simple colony to that of a free nation, it is our duty to look with sympathy upon problems of the same nature which are facing other peoples who are also trying to attain maturity and independence. But we also have our duty to perform according to the terms of the Charter of the United Nations. Our intervention in matters of that kind must not be of a kind which would endanger the peaceful relations of people in those areas.

Positions of the Soviet Union

At each session of the United Nations we also look anxiously for concrete actions which will provide a test of