



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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UNITED ACTION FOR PEACEFUL ACTION

An address by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, made to the Ottawa Branch of the United Nations Association in Canada, February 4, 1953.

For a quarter of a century I have followed at close hand the two valiant attempts to find a formula for lasting peace. The League of Nations failed. Because the consequence of further failure is so terrible, the United Nations was founded on the determination that it must not fail. Its success or failure depends, in large measure, on public support and on the activities of organizations like the United Nations Association in Canada which encourage an intelligent interest in its work.

The Seventh Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which convened last October in New York, now stands adjourned. Late this month, the Assembly itself and one of its six Committees will reconvene to deal with the ten items still remaining on the agenda. In this interval between meetings it seems appropriate to ask: "Has anything been achieved?"

Today there are many persons -- not all behind the Iron Curtain -- who ask whether the U.N. can survive. Some even ask whether it should survive. It is this question that I shall attempt to answer tonight. Before looking at it in long-range terms, let me consider its relevance to the current Session. I shall try to cut through all the detail and discussion to point out what I am convinced are the really significant and concrete accomplishments of our recent meetings.

For me, this Assembly offered a striking contrast to other Sessions I had attended. The United Nations, once an awkward adolescent, had undergone the subtle change that signifies "growing up". Time and again this coming of age was reflected in the attitude of most delegations and by the maturity of the debates.

I would be the first to concede that the U.N. still has its shortcomings and limitations. Even at this Session, some issues were not squarely faced; others were raised only to be postponed. But, nevertheless, the total effect was still forward. The main lines of effort were certainly worthwhile. And here I might say that great credit for the success of our deliberations belongs to my colleague, Mr. Pearson, who filled the Assembly's highest post with such distinction.