

Nations constitutes the greatest hope for the middle and small powers, for the new and weaker states, indeed, for all the nations of mankind of every social and political system.

Mischievous Soviet Speech

We meet under circumstances which, in my opinion, mean that this is a critical stage in the history and development of the United Nations. This organization faces its most formidable threat, a threat to its very existence. In the last few days the Assembly has heard from the leaders of its two most powerful members. I had great hopes when I learned that Mr. Khrushchev was going to attend. I came here prepared to accept, to adopt and to agree with any good suggestion he might offer, for I am of those who believe that his suggestions must not be rejected out of hand. I have been disappointed. Mr. Khrushchev, in a gigantic propaganda drama of destructive misrepresentation, launched a major offensive in the cold war. He gave lip-service to the United Nations which, in my opinion, would be destroyed by his proposal for a triumvirate. That speech could not have been intended to bring the world closer to peace; yet, to bring the world closer to peace is the major reason for our being here.

We do not always agree with the United States, but our very existence -- with one-tenth of the population of the United States and possessing the resources that we do -- is an effective answer to the propaganda that the United States has aggressive designs. I say that, to begin with, President Eisenhower made a restrained, a wise and a conciliatory speech. He presented a constructive programme. He looked forward to a world community of peace. He opened the door to international conciliation and world fellowship. I am sorry to say that Mr. Khrushchev tried to shut that door.

Attack on Secretary Rejected

This morning we heard from the Secretary-General, the agent and trustee of this organization. I say at once that Canada rejects categorically the unjust and intemperate attacks that have been made on the office and person of this wholly-dedicated and impartial Secretary-General. The proposal of the U.S.S.R. to replace the Secretary-General with a three-man presidium requiring unanimous agreement to act is a transparent plan to undermine the prestige and authority of the United Nations. Having thwarted the United Nations so often through the exercise of the veto, the U.S.S.R. now seems bent on destroying the United Nations by neutralizing its power to proceed effectively and promptly in emergencies as they arise.

I need not add that Canada is opposed to that bizarre proposal; to accept it would require an amendment of the Charter; to accept it would be to reduce the United Nations to an instrument of indecision and impotence. It would, in fact, multiply the veto to the detriment of the effective operation of this organization.