

The increasing importance of the peace-making activities which I have mentioned emphasizes the role of the smaller powers in the United Nations. The assumption of greater responsibility is perhaps good for the souls of the middle powers. It has been all too easy for us to belabour the great powers and find in their sins the causes of all our trouble. It is, not infrequently, the irresponsibility of a lesser power which has involved the United Nations in a crisis, and we should bear in mind that such irresponsibility inevitably encourages the great powers to assume greater authority. The lesser powers are not wiser or more virtuous just because they are smaller. Nevertheless, our lack of the capacity for global aggression and our limited involvement in world affairs do give us the chance to play a peace-making role which is denied by circumstances to the great powers. This represents, to some extent, a shift in the nature of the United Nations as envisaged by its founders. The Charter was based upon the principle of collaboration among the great powers to keep the peace. If this basis is not as yet possible, then it is up to the lesser powers to do what they can in the meantime. We should then be in a sounder position to warn the great powers that the United Nations was not established as a forum in which they could play the game of power politics, and that the lesser powers have roles other than that of pawns in a cold war.

I take this opportunity to pledge the intention of Canada to contribute as can be reasonably required of us to work for peace through the United Nations.

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