

The implications of this greater inter-dependence are well expressed in an address given by Prime Minister Mackenzie King when he received an honorary degree from the University of Brussels on 10th November 1947; he then said, "We are all members, one of the other. What injures one, injures the other. What is done by one to help mankind, helps the other." It follows then, from this condition of close inter-dependence to which we have arrived, that we must give our full support to the international agency - the United Nations - which has, as its primary purpose, the maintenance of international peace and security.

Today far too often we hear people talking glibly of the inevitability of war. Frequently these people are persons who have never themselves been called upon to participate actively in a war and who do not realize the full extent of its horror. Certainly, I do not believe that war is inevitable, but I do believe that it will break out unless nations can be induced to decide their disputes by the exercise of reason and through discussion instead of by fighting. With all its defects and limitations, the United Nations does provide the means and methods by which this process can be carried forward. This does not mean that the United Nations, by itself, can prevent war. As I have already said, the delegates at Lake Success are merely instruments of the governments of their fifty-eight countries. They have no separate identity of their own. The will to peace must come from the governments concerned and, even beyond them, from the peoples for whom these governments are responsible. However, providing that the will to peace does exist, it can be most fruitfully developed through open international conferences and discussions in the manner provided for by the constitution of the United Nations. This again, is a sufficient reason for our giving our full support to this hopeful organization. We must work for unity inspired by consent, rather than for unity derived from the coercion of force. That is, we must work for the direct application of the democratic process in the international field and this requires, above everything, an effectively organized Universal International Association of Nations.

The primary task of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security, but it performs as well many other useful functions in the economic and social spheres. The work of the Economic and Social Council, and of the Specialized Agencies which are associated with it, have so far proved to be among the most fruitful undertakings of the United Nations. In the complexity of a modern industrial world it is essential that close cooperation should exist between nations in financial, labour, health and scientific matters - to name only a few of the fields of endeavour. The work of the United Nations in these fields is, to my mind, an additional reason, and a very strong one, for public support.

If I have spoken emphatically concerning the reasons for our supporting the United Nations, I do not mean by this that we should adopt an attitude of unreasoned and unquestioning devotion, and that we should defend its every action in an atmosphere of uncritical enthusiasm. What is needed is a persistent, intelligent and well-informed public opinion which will bring to bear a constructive effect and so encourage needed changes. The United Nations is a young and, as yet, far from perfect body and in this it is, as I have said, the reflection of the imperfect world in which we live. We cannot achieve a truly effective international organization except by patient, long-continued effort. The goal for all of us is a world society based on justice under agreed law. If we tend to become impatient with the frustrations at Lake Success, we must remember, on the other hand, that in all parts of the world, men and women of good-will are devoting their lives hopefully and with quiet determination to the ultimate realization of the international ideal of peace and friendly relations between all nations. A great body of people today are increasingly aware that collective security throughout the world is not an idle dream, but the most urgent practical necessity of our time. If real collective security