

By reason of our representation at San Francisco and then at all the subsequent meetings of the Assembly, Canada has become aware at least in a general way of these security problems, many of which afflict the world. Always we have shown sympathy with those in distress, and often we have given friendly counsel and, on occasion, disinterested advice. But during the last year we have had to do much more than this because acceptance of membership in the Security Council has entailed not only the close and detailed study of every political and security problem which threatens peace throughout the world but we have undertaken the serious duty to contribute to the solution of these grave questions and to be responsible for any opinion and advice we may have had to offer.

Unfortunately the list of disputes which have come to the Council has been very long. It has ranged around the world from Berlin to Trieste and Greece and Palestine; to Kashmir and Indonesia and Korea and other places where angry men have stood in opposition with arms in their hands, -- where, on occasion, peace has broken down in acts of war, of riot and insurrection, of sabotage and murder, -- where, only with the greatest difficulty and by reason of the persistent and devoted endeavours of the servants of the United Nations on the spot has the conflict been kept in bounds and held from precipitating some general conflagration. Truly the world today is a very disturbed place.

We have heard much in the way of criticism of the United Nations for not preventing the outbreak of these disturbances. But they are the consequence of ancient national rivalries or of group ambitions or animosities of long standing, which have flared up anew. They are the troubles for which the United Nations was set up to find an answer, not the faults of the organization itself. In some circles also it has become a habit -- a very bad and unfortunate and unjustified habit I would say -- to impute the competency of the Security Council.

My answer to this is that despite the fact that the Security Council does not as yet dispose of any armed force for use as police, and could not therefore in any case compel obedience, but on the contrary it is restricted to the employment solely of the arts of persuasion, with its only weapon an informed world opinion -- I say that despite all these restrictions which many people might consider insuperable handicaps, nevertheless there is not a single dispute which has come before the Council which has not been checked and in some measure advanced towards solution. And so, I for one -- and I think many others as well -- will hold with reason to the hopeful view that we are -- even if slowly -- advancing towards a state where the rule of law will in the end prevail.

It is not my purpose today to talk to you about the many problems which have been before the Security Council since we have held membership. The time available does not permit the marshalling of the details required for their statement and explanation but there is one matter in which Canada has been specially concerned which I would like to bring before you because I believe that in the long-term view all our other security problems are transient in comparison and fade into insignificance before the dangers and the difficulties which it presents. I refer to the problem of the International Control of Atomic Energy which has troubled the nations of the world during the three and a half years which have passed since the first man-made atomic explosion took place in the desert of New Mexico on 16 July, 1945, when the first atomic bomb was detonated with awe-inspiring results in most remarkable accord with the prediction and prior calculation of the physicists.

Shortly thereafter two atomic bombs were exploded over Japan and these had very immediate consequences in inducing the surrender of that country. Thus World War II ended with the atomic bomb established as a weapon which stood in a class by itself. Even the earlier models used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki represented a concentration of explosive power some 5000 times greater than anything which could previously be carried in a single aircraft. By reason of continuing large-scale research, principally in the United States, it is only reasonable to accept that this factor has since been increased substantially.