

APPENDIX

ADDRESS TO UNITED NATIONS BY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Mr. President,

Your election to the office of the presidency of this assembly is fitting testimony to the esteem in which you are held at the United Nations. I know you will take a worthy place amongst those distinguished representatives of member states from Latin America who have presided over our debates from time to time during the past twenty three years. Indeed, your election reminds us once again how much the United Nations owes its accomplishments to the dedication, eloquence and concern for principle of the delegates who have represented the founding member states from Latin America.

My country too has made special efforts since 1945 to implement the principles of the charter and to nurture the growth of this organization. Speaking in this assembly for the first time as the representative of a new Canadian government I wish to reaffirm Canada's determination to do all it can to support these principles. It is our aim to help to achieve a better world by strengthening the United Nations and its agencies as indispensable instruments for international co-operation.

Canada's contribution will be pragmatic and realistic. It will be based on our assessment of what the situation requires the United Nations to do and what Canada can best do in the fulfilment of its responsibilities as a faithful member of the United Nations. In matters of peace and war there are limits on the kinds of agreement likely to be reached. Member states however must work towards strengthening the authority of the organization. Success will come slowly. Some would use this forum for the ends of propaganda alone. Others sincerely expect the assembly to act as a quasi-government or legislature. Our yardstick ought to be the capacity of the United Nations to perform the functions which are its proper responsibility and on which there can be at any time a reasonable measure of agreement.

Canada's experience has led us to value our independence while recognizing the interdependence of all states in the modern world; to prize political diversity and cultural freedom; to cherish pride of country but to mistrust chauvinistic dogmas; to adapt but not to

overthrow the traditions we have inherited from others; to govern by consent. We believe it is possible, indeed essential, to reconcile the affinities of geography and history and the close associations they imply with the universal concepts set out in the charter of equal rights, territorial integrity and political independence.

It follows that we cannot accept that a community of interest, real or alleged, political, cultural or economic, entitles one country to take upon itself the right to interfere in the internal affairs of another. In the commonwealth of nations to which we belong the right of national self-determination is so taken for granted that member countries are free to develop ties with any other countries, including socialist countries.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Above all, no international order can be founded or can exist on the self appointed right of any government or group of governments to impose their policies on other sovereign states by force. The invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet union and some of its allies was nothing more than the assertion of a proprietary right of a great power to exercise domination over eastern Europe under the guise of a "fraternal" ideological relationship. It was naked power politics without regard to the charter of the United Nations. Have the governments of the USSR and its allies forgotten that less than two years ago this assembly by a vote of 109 to none declared:

No state has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other states. Consequently, armed intervention and all other forms of interference or attempted threats against the personality of the state or against its political, economic and cultural elements, are condemned.

Although we are bound to take note of the wishes of the government of Czechoslovakia that the Security Council refrain from further action at this time, the council quite rightly remains seized of this question, which has profound implications for the independence and sovereignty of all member states. The concern of members of the United Nations for Czechoslovakia, its leaders and its people will inevitably continue until the soil of that country is once again free of foreign troops.