

that any world institution, especially one which aims at effective co-operation among all nations, is certain to be of slow growth. It is true that nature never rests. It is equally true that nature never hastens. One reason why the international institutions the United Nations have created since the close of war are not working in the way we hoped they might, is that the sense of a world community of interest on which these institutions must rest, and which, in themselves, they tend to create, has not yet been developed. It may take a long time to develop.

The United Nations, I feel, must seek to close the gap, already far too wide, between the purposes which are within its reach, and those which exceed its grasp. We must not dissipate the moral and other resources of a world which desperately needs peace on too many secondary objectives, however desirable they may be in themselves.

We do well to recognize that the advance of science demands, in an increasingly urgent and imperative way, the existence of a community sense which is world wide. In seeking to create this sense of a world community, the United Nations is certain to be confronted by many difficulties. In thinking of these difficulties, I have sometimes wondered whether the experience in co-operation and association of the countries of the Commonwealth of Nations, to which Canada is proud to belong, has not some lessons, both positive and negative, which might be of help in meeting like difficulties in the development of a world community sense.

It is true the countries of the Commonwealth have never had a charter, have never appointed a Secretary-General, and have never taken a decision by a simple or two-thirds majority. They have nevertheless, over many years, worked together with an increasing appreciation of interests they have in common. It is true they have by no means solved all their difficulties; some of these difficult situations have found their way on to the agenda of the United Nations. Nevertheless, by and large, it is true that the countries of the Commonwealth do try to understand each other's problems, institutions and points of view. Between themselves they have sought agreements by accommodation and mutual forbearance. Without positive formulation, they have contrived to share in large measure a common point of view. This community sense they have developed despite the differences in language, race, tradition, and religion which characterize the member states. In this more limited experiment in international political association there are some things which may be of value in shaping the development of the United Nations.

By our presence here in Paris, we are reminded not only of what may be accomplished through the combined efforts of nations, but also of the peril which again threatens civilization.

The conflicts of the last eighty years have flowed back and forth across this land of France and have exacted an appalling penalty of its people. Since the latest and greatest of these conflicts, the nations have set themselves the double task of reconstructing the shattered political and economic life of Europe, and of preventing a recurrence of such conflicts. These are aims towards the realization of which every nation might have been expected to co-operate whole-heartedly. It must frankly be admitted, however, that we have cause for misgiving about the progress of both these undertakings.

The reconstruction of Europe, stimulated by aid from countries which suffered less directly from the war, and carried forward by the co-operative effort of the peoples of Western Europe, has, fortunately, made some progress. On the other hand, rather than participate in this work of reconstruction, from which they themselves would benefit, certain nations have chosen not merely to stand aside, but, wilfully or otherwise, to misrepresent and obstruct the efforts of others. This