

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations

IN HIS address at the closing of the twenty-fifth anniversary commemorative session of the United Nations General Assembly, on October 24, the Canadian Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Yvon Beaulne, expressed the hope that the anniversary would be considered "not just an end of a journey, but as a new beginning, stimulating us to new efforts to implement the goals set down in the Charter".

Preparations for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization began following Secretary-General U Thant's annual report on the work of the United Nations in September 1968, when he called attention to the need to "renew our efforts to promote the cause of international understanding and rededicate ourselves to the principles of international order and morality set out in the Charter". He suggested that "such an occasion for rededication will present itself to all member states as we approach the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations".

A Preparatory Committee was established to make recommendations on appropriate ways to celebrate the occasion, and to determine upon a theme. The theme chosen was "Peace, Justice and Progress". The Committee recommended: that, at the international level, commemorative stamps be issued; that awards be made to distinguished UN staff members; that states be urged to ratify or accede to various international instruments; that the date of the signing of the Charter (June 26, 1945) be commemorated in San Francisco; that a World Youth Assembly be convened in New York during July; and that a special commemorative session of the UN General Assembly be held at UN headquarters.

Canadian Anniversary Committee

At the national level, governments were urged to organize appropriate national programs in co-operation with non-governmental groups. In Canada, the Government provided a grant of \$25,000 to the Canadian Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, established early in 1970 to co-ordinate national activities, under the direction of Mr. L.-A. Couture. The grant included funds necessary for the selection of young Canadian delegates to the World Youth Assembly.⁽¹⁾ The Committee organized activities designed to draw public attention to the anniversary and to the aims and objectives of the United Nations. These included providing information material and assistance to universities and groups planning commemorative

⁽¹⁾ See *External Affairs*, November 1970, Page 409.