

Canada's policy is thus one of full support for the United Nations.

My Government is, however, fully aware of the inadequacy of the United Nations at the present time in providing the nations of the world with the security which they require. The realities of this situation must be faced and the policy of the Canadian Government in respect to it were summarized briefly in a statement by Mr. St. Laurent in the House of Commons, April 29, 1948.

Mr. St. Laurent then stated that the Canadian Government is opposed to encouraging or fostering any activity which might, at this moment, provide any state with a legitimate — I emphasize the word "legitimate" — excuse for withdrawing from the United Nations. On the other hand, he said that we shall not refrain from any action which we know to be right merely because it displeases certain other member states. We shall continue to give every assistance to constructive efforts to make the United Nations into the instrument for security and co-operation which it was originally designed to be; and in the meantime utilize its present possibilities to the fullest extent.

Mr. St. Laurent added that we shall oppose demands on the United Nations which, at the moment, are too heavy for its resources. We do not believe, for example, that it should attempt to undertake administrative responsibilities and police activities in various parts of the world, before it has been given the means which may be required for carrying out these responsibilities.

My Government also recognizes that the effectiveness of the United Nations is, at present, greatly reduced by the divisions which have grown up between the countries of Eastern Europe and the countries of the rest of the world. Until, therefore, there has been some measure of settlement of the issues that divide the world, we should not expect too much from the United Nations in its present form and organization. No one, for instance, should expect that the machinery of the United Nations will produce a solution to problems on which the two most powerful nations of the world may have diametrically opposed views, which cannot be reconciled.

During the last two years, our faith in the United Nations, as an effective organization for peace and security, has been shaken. What is unshaken is our determination to make of it, or within it, an effective organization for these purposes. Unshaken also, is our faith that this can be achieved. It is therefore important that the United Nations be kept in existence and that we make every possible use of the very high degree of vitality which it has shown, particularly in those disputes which are not directly within the area of conflict between the Eastern European states and the rest of the world.

Canada's willingness to stand for, and our ability to secure election to the Security Council last autumn was an earnest of our desire to play our full part in the United Nations. Yet I would like to point out that the position of a power of the middle rank on the Security Council is a difficult one. A small power is, in a sense, by its very smallness, relieved from much of the responsibility which participation in decisions involves, and which the implementation of such decisions requires. At the other extreme, the Great Powers can protect their positions with the veto. A "middle power" such as Canada is, however, in a different position. Its economic strength and political influence are of importance, and the moral and material contribution which it can make to collective action, as the last two World Wars have shown, is very significant. The judgments which the Canadian Government makes on United Nations matters must, therefore, be made with care and a sense of responsibility, particularly, if I may say so, because Canada is a country which has the reputation of conscientiously carrying out the commitments into which it has entered. Yet it is not always easy for us to secure credit for independence and honesty of