



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Address by Mr. R.C. Riddell, Department  
of External Affairs, Ottawa, at Victoria  
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I have undertaken to talk to you on a topic that is a constant subject of public discussion both in print and from the platform. There is very little that I can say which is original, and it would not be proper for a civil servant to attempt either to define the policy of the Canadian Government on this or any other aspect of its foreign policy or to comment upon that policy. I have only one pretext for choosing the United Nations as a subject. From day to day, in an administrative role, I am working on the question of our relation with the United Nations, and I know something of the way Canadian policy in this respect is put into effect, and of the way the machinery works. It is, however, an unhappy official who cannot say that his heart is in his work as well as his mind, and whose imagination is not stirred by the events in which he participates. For my part, I count it my good fortune to be engaged, even at the official level, upon this project in the national life of this country. I am fully convinced that, no matter how discouraging are the circumstances, nor how pessimistic the outlook, there is yet no aspect of our foreign policy which is more worth the time and effort that we put on it, for the hopes of countless people, both here and abroad, are bound up with its fortunes; nor could I fail to feel the challenge of this project even at moments when I am having to admit the enormous possibility that it will not succeed.

Throughout history there have been repeated efforts, by one means or another, to widen the areas within which common rules and practices of government prevailed. Sometimes this has been done by consent, or a measure of consent, and systems have evolved or agreements entered into by which people conducted their affairs under the rule of law and settled their differences without resort to force. Against the dark passages of war and violence are set the pages of great achievement by which large areas and sometimes whole continents have been brought within areas of enlightened and progressive administrative systems. It is a truism now that we have within our hands the technical means, either to destroy our civilization or to cast about the world a network of arrangements and agreements upon which we may build a rule of law for a very large section of humanity. I think there is a reasonable chance that we are at the beginning of such a movement. I sat recently at an international conference in which the representatives of many nations were trying vainly to reach some measure of agreement about a disputed border. They were confronting the