

THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Following two months of discussions in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization, the representatives of 50 states, including Canada, signed the Charter of the United Nations on June 26, 1945. The Canadian role during the Conference had been an extremely active one and many Canadian proposals were incorporated in the Charter, which came into effect on October 24, 1945.

The Preamble to the Charter expresses the fundamental aims of the 51 original members* and those which have been admitted to the United Nations since October, 1945.

“We the peoples of the United Nations determined

To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

To establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

and for these ends

To practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

To unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

To ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

To employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.”

* Poland was not represented at the San Francisco Conference but signed the Charter after agreement had been reached between the USA, the USSR, and the UK about which Polish Government would be recognized.