

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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No. 54/52 Comments by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, on the article, "Expanding the United Nations Community" by Dr. van Wageningen, in the November 1954 issue of the "Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science".

The further development of our sense of community is unquestionably, as Dr. van Wageningen emphasizes, the crucial need of our time. In a sense, this has always been man's crucial need - the history of political actions and social relations in any period may legitimately be regarded as that age's attempt to work out answers to the basic question "who is my neighbour?". But though the essential problem is as old as history, the technical advances which we have made during recent decades in communications and in the power of weapons, have faced our generation with the need for a decisive and fairly rapid advance in the scale and level of community organization and attitudes -- as the only alternative to serious risk of unparalleled destruction.

I like Dr. van Wageningen's point that the expansion of community should be considered in terms of two dimensions - breadth and depth. There will also, I think, be agreement that progress is desirable in a third and qualitative dimension - for the community which we seek must be something more than the ant colony or the regimented monolithic society of the totalitarians. Cohesion is necessary but not enough.

As to expansion in breadth, I agree that the United Nations would benefit if it included more of the sovereign states which exercise influence in their parts of the world. I do not agree with the view of the United Nations as a form of anti-communist alliance, which would be much improved if the few communist members were ejected. The United Nations was not designed to be such an alliance, nor is it needed for that purpose. It is the invaluable role of the United Nations to serve as the constitutional framework for international co-operation: a unique forum and focus for negotiations, which as I see it, requires as wide a membership as possible of states which qualify under the Charter.