

the guerrilla warfare in Northern Greece, the stalemate in Korea and the conflict in Indonesia. That being the case there is one question which must be continually be before us: Will the United Nations provide the collective security necessary to prevent wars among the nations or to terminate any dispute speedily and on a just basis? We must always have this question in mind, because we all have to take some risks in these world affairs which we have to deal with so directly and in so many ways. No great benefit is ever achieved, however, without risk. We know that well from the history of our own country. The advocates of confederation, the builders of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the men who held for Canada the great expense of the West, all took great risks. They were, to use a phrase now current in the discussion of international affairs, calculated risks. A man would be a fool if he did not calculate very carefully the risk he was undergoing in the pursuance of any scheme. In the questions of Canadian support of the United Nations, the Canadian people have continually to balance the advantages and disadvantages of membership. Most of us believe, I think, that the prize to be gained, a world free of war in which the contacts between nations are friendly and mutually beneficial, is so great that it is worth our whole-hearted effort.

It might be objected that while it is allright to co-operate in international affairs on the economic level we should, as a small nation, avoid the risks of general commitments on the political level. But in the world as it is at present, the key to world economic prosperity is to be found in the achievement of trust among nations, collective security, and the rule of law. I appeal again to our own experience in the building of Canada. The settlers who moved into the bleak forests along the St. Lawrence and around Lake Ontario had to ensure their security against attack first and establish law among themselves, however rude it might be, before they could devote their attention to the many problems of building a prosperous community. The basis of prosperity in Canada at present is freedom from the fear of domestic strife, general conditions of order and security in every town and village and profound respect for law and for human rights.

We cannot hope to avoid these primary responsibilities for the world by saying that Canada is a small nation. We are comparatively small, but geography, history and the current fortunes of peace and war have faced us with the challenge to play an important role in international affairs. We must remember how many nations have been ravaged by war, how many are subject to recurrent famines and diseases, how many have been unnerved and how many lack even our experience in international relations. Whether we like it or not, we occupy a significant position among the free democracies of the world. If the free democracies lose the initiative in world affairs and in the United Nations in particular, we cannot expect the ideals embodied in the United Nations to receive any lasting support from the totalitarian nations or from those lands still immersed in the primary problems of creating a national structure.

Our support for the United Nations is a long-term policy and it involves us in a wide range of activities that can come to fruition only in the future. It is natural that that should be so. We - and by "we" I now mean the whole western hemisphere - would be foolish to concentrate all our attention on the problem of avoiding war and give no thought to the long-term economic and social reconstruction which would support world peace. A world-wide institution cannot be built in a few short years. We have to spend a good deal of time in organizational matters. The United Nations can best command the support of our peoples if it is efficient and economical. But to make it so requires many hours of planning, the formation of many sub-committees and long debates over