

and former Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson did so much to develop the concept.

Canada is currently participating actively in the UN-supervised elections in Cambodia, and our thoughts go out today to the many Canadians and others who are working to bring peace and democracy to Cambodia.

We remain a major contributor to UN peacekeeping operations -- both through troops and civilians that we deploy and through our share of peacekeeping costs. It is a moral and financial obligation that Canada takes very seriously. This is why Canada always ensures that its regular UN budget assessments are paid in full and on time.

The international community has changed significantly in the past 50 years and the UN has evolved with it. While it is important to reflect on these changes, it is even more essential for us to look ahead to the 21st Century. We must examine what needs to be done to ensure that the UN remains a powerful and effective organization capable of carrying out the purposes and principles of its Charter.

This is not just a task for government. There is also a very important role for non-governmental organizations. In this regard, I would like to commend our host, the United Nations Association in Canada [UNA/C], for the invaluable work it does to educate Canadians about the UN and for playing such a major role in the creation of this national anniversary committee. UNA/C's dedication to the cause of the UN is well known.

The Charter speaks of "we the peoples of the United Nations," and the UN has recommended this theme for the year 1995. It is, therefore, "we the people of Canada" who must ensure that the 50th anniversary of the UN is a truly popular and democratic affair, which is marked not just in ceremony, but by actively reaffirming Canada's commitment to the principles of the UN Charter.

Thank you.