

Council. Apart from this, we have built upon the Charter machinery, giving a living interpretation to the Charter itself. While it has been difficult in practice to secure the required degree of agreement to amend the Charter, this does not seem to have prevented the United Nations from keeping up with the times. Canada is ready to look seriously at any specific proposals to amend the Charter or make it work better, if these have broad support among member states. But I am not convinced that a new Charter that could be agreed upon now would be better than the Charter written in 1945.

Mr. President, I have struck a hopeful note. I may be criticized for that. But I am convinced this is the right perspective. We have to concentrate on the problems of the day. This Assembly will have to concentrate on measures to prevent terrorism, to consolidate our first advance in the environmental field, to secure administrative and budgetary reform, to protect human rights in Africa and elsewhere, and to develop international law, especially the law of the sea and the law governing air piracy. Meanwhile, the Security Council may well be obliged to deal with threats to peace -- for example, should the current tension in the Middle East rise dangerously. All these matters are sources of deep concern. To deal with them successfully -- to deal with them at all -- will, we know, lead us at times into anger, frustration and despair.

It is, therefore, a healthy corrective to lift our heads from these problems on occasion to remind ourselves of the great work the United Nations has accomplished in the past, and to seek to trace those currents in human affairs which give hope that its greatest accomplishments lie ahead.