

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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### AN ASSESSMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

An address by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, to the Toronto Branch of the United Nations Association in Canada, Toronto, October 23, 1953.

#### Can The United Nations Succeed?

Tomorrow marks the eighth anniversary of the coming into force of the United Nations Charter. For one-half of my life now, I have followed at close hand the two valiant attempts to find a formula for lasting peace -- first through the League of Nations and now through the United Nations which arose, Phoenix-like, out of the ashes of the Second World War.

It is fashionable to say that the League of Nations failed. The truth is that the League did not fail -- its member nations failed to make it work. Because the world cannot risk the consequence of further failure, it is imperative that we determine to make the United Nations work. The success or failure of the United Nations depends not on diplomats alone but on John Doe. For this reason, organizations like the United Nations Association in Canada can play an important part in encouraging an active and intelligent interest in its work. ....

In this jet-propelled era of atomic power and hydrogen bombs, with its sometimes overwhelming pressures and anxieties, a great many people are wondering whether the United Nations is worthwhile. Some are asking whether it can survive. Some are even asking whether it should survive. Not only private citizens, but some of the influential newspapers and writers in Great Britain and the United States and, to a much lesser extent, in Canada are questioning the value of the United Nations as an agency for peace and security in a world troubled by a continuing cold war and divided into two armed groups.

My own view can be simply stated. I believe that, if the United Nations or some such world agency cannot succeed, then peace, in the long term, is impossible.

To put it bluntly, the United Nations must survive, if for no other reason than that it is the only remaining point of contact between the free world and the Communist world. We all recognize how imperfect are our communications with one another, but how much worse would it be if there were no United Nations and no common meeting place between the rival camps in the present ideological struggle?