

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(EIGHTEENTH SESSION)

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STATEMENT BY
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LESTER B. PEARSON
PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA
IN THE GENERAL DEBATE AT THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK - SEPTEMBER 19, 1963

Mr. President:

Some years have passed since I last had the honour to represent my country at the United Nations.

My first words on my return must be to reaffirm Canada's strong and continuing support for our world organization and our desire to do what we can to help realize the ideals of its Charter.

From this rostrum, I am happy to recognize many old friends and respected colleagues. But I am also conscious that the Assembly of 1963 reflects the great changes that have taken place in our organization since I was here and which, in turn, reflect changes that have taken place in the world. Not the least of these changes is the admission of many newly-independent states whose distinguished representatives now add their wisdom and influence to the Assembly's deliberations.

Their presence is a reminder, which we should not need, that there can be no enduring peace and security in the world until all men are free, with the right to determine their own form of political life and the responsibility that alone gives meaning to freedom.

For eighteen years now, the United Nations has continued the search for effective ways to promote the purposes and principles of its Charter. In the broad balance sheet the credit column remains favourable, even if limited by international fears and misunderstandings. Our task remains - as it has always been - to reduce and ultimately sweep away those limitations.

Of all the changes of the past few years, none has been more dramatic than the emergence of new and free nations in Africa. This emergence has had a profound impact on the political evolution of the United Nations and on international affairs generally. It has added heavy responsibilities to our