

*United Nations Charter Reform*

There are many areas in the United Nations Charter to which I could suggest amendments, but I pointed out only five. I would like to point out that 1970 is the year of the 25th anniversary of the UN Charter. It will be celebrated this year on October 24. I think that we can really mark this 25th birthday in a meaningful way by taking some measures to strengthen that organization and by doing something to secure peace in the world. I think that we should celebrate this birthday in a meaningful way, not just with a mere ceremony.

Some people say that we can do many of the things I suggested without reforming the UN Charter. It may be that some of my suggestions can be implemented without such charter reforms, but I think we need the emphasis and the certainty of the direction in which the United Nations should go by charter reform.

Others may say in objection to my suggestions that these things cannot be done right away, that there is too much disagreement at the United Nations. To that I would say that it is up to the Canadian government to state its objective clearly, even though they are long range objectives, with the understanding that we may not get everything at once. But let us at least work toward these long range objectives.

Finally, some people might say that it might be wrong to give the United Nations more power to amend its charter. They state that by giving up some of our sovereignty, by putting some of our trust in an international body which could be dominated by other nations, we might be losing control of the right to determine our own destiny. To that I would say that with the present system we have not been able to guarantee our security.

In this century we have had two major wars, and since 1948 we have had major and minor conflicts. Certainly, there will be a risk involved in handing over more power to the United Nations, but I think the risk is minor as compared to the risk of another major war occurring under the present system. It is certain that risks are involved and that we might be taking a chance, but I say, let us take those risks because if we do not, we are in for even greater trouble.

Some people might say that these suggestions are too idealistic, that to think of a United Nations as it was created in 1945 is too idealistic and does not take into account the realities of the world situation. I say that if we feel we can maintain peace with the

type of world structure that we have and the United Nations has, then we are being idealistic and not realistic. If we think we can really do something about international conflicts with the system of sovereign states that we have now, and the type of United Nations we have now, then we are being unrealistic. The only realistic proposal is to make the United Nations strong enough to maintain peace and prevent aggression.

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** I am very glad that the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) has put this private members' notice of motion on the order paper because I can think of no subject of more importance to the survival, not only of the United Nations and its possible contribution to world peace, but of the world itself when we come face to face with the realities of the international situation.

I think quite frankly that one of the problems we face in trying to come to grips with the situation which exists in the international sphere is to really ascertain what the facts are. I think it would not be an overstatement of the present international situation to describe it as one of almost total anarchy. Certainly, that is true when it comes to the co-operation of nations with nations. Those who speak glibly about international law, when it comes to the movement of powers and great powers, are speaking about something that really does not exist. They are speaking about those occasional agreements that arise when they are in the best interests of those who are party to them.

When one considers the facts as indicated by the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, the number of wars that not only have occurred since the end of world war II but are occurring even now, the degree to which nations seem incapable of solving some of the great human tragedies of our time, whether they be in Nigeria, Congo, Viet Nam, the Middle East or wherever, one realizes that we have little power at present at the United Nations to deal with these pressing human problems. Yet, one of the strange paradoxes of our times is that we can see a number of areas, internationally speaking, where there has been considerable agreement. We take it for granted when someone wishes to post a letter—provided it goes beyond the borders of this country, and that is where the question is, perhaps, these days—that it will normally arrive at its destination because we established some years ago now the International Postal Union which ensures the transport of