

Men of goodwill everywhere respect the aims of your association, Mr. Chairman. You are working for a better, happier and safer world, your aspiration is one that can lift man's eyes from his immediate day-to-day concerns to a more distant objective.

Even as we look to the future, we must live in the world as it is, a world of nation states, complementing one another, competing with one another and inevitably coming into conflict with one another. And, at the same time, a world of nation states that are becoming increasingly interdependent. There is only one crew on Spaceship Earth, and we must work together as a crew if we are to continue to travel in our orbit with even a measure of safety and well-being. We must find a better base for our security than the fragile and uneasy balance of deterrence; we must achieve a better distribution of the world's wealth and a more rational use of the world's vast but finite resources.

It is a fortunate thing for Canada that your meeting here coincides with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, and that it gives us another opportunity to welcome the Secretary-General, whose name and work are honoured throughout the world. Of all the attempts to bring order into the world community, going back as far as the *Pax Romana*, the United Nations is the most significant and the most successful. It is sometimes suggested that the United Nations has outlived its usefulness. Canada categorically rejects that position and that interpretation. I, for one, as a man who must live in the world and as a foreign minister who must take part in its councils, cannot envisage a world without the United Nations. It is true that in my speech on behalf of Canada at the General Assembly last year I voiced certain criticisms and certain doubts about aspects of the United Nations' procedures and operations. I did so on behalf of a country that has been an active participant in the work of the United Nations since its inception, a country that is fully committed to the principles in the Charter and that will continue to play its full part as a member state.

We should remember that the United Nations as at present constituted is not, in the end, an embryonic world government. It brings together nearly every country on earth (in Canada we believe that the sooner proper arrangements can be made to bring in the few that remain outside the better), but even as they come together the nations often act in a self-interest that is limited and confining. As a forum to regulate the great questions of war, peace and security, the United Nations has not, perhaps, lived up to expectations for the very reason I have just suggested. On the other hand, we can take heart from the quiet, steady and immensely rewarding work the United Nations and its agencies are doing to bring about a better ordering of the relations between nations. I should like to refer to a few of these efforts.

Over the last several years, the United Nations and its Disarmament Committee in Geneva have made real progress in the field of arms control. In 1970 the Non-Proliferation Treaty came into force -- the most important achievement to date. Very shortly, the Committee should reach agreement on the draft text of a treaty banning weapons of mass destruction from the seabed, which we hope will be endorsed by the General Assembly and opened for signature shortly thereafter. It is also encouraging that, parallel with these efforts in the United Nations, the United States and the Soviet Union are pursuing their negotiations on measures to curtail the strategic arms race in both offensive and defensive missiles.