

Foreword

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, has said that "the basis of both the League of Nations and the United Nations is the pledge by sovereign states to co-operate, a pledge which involves some measure of sacrifice of sovereignty in the common interest". By 1965 the United Nations had been in existence for almost exactly the same number of years as the effective life of the League. Far more than its predecessor, the United Nations is an organization expressly designed to promote international co-operation among sovereign states, not only in maintaining peace and security but also in solving international problems of an economic and social character and in encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The first 20 years of this second experiment in large-scale international organization, with its many associated agencies, its annual diplomatic conference and meetings throughout the year on every conceivable subject, give rise to a modest hope that, with patience, and the will to unite our efforts for the common good, it will prove possible to lay the foundation for a rational and stable world order.

We in Canada should remember that the effectiveness of the United Nations is almost entirely dependent on the actions and policies of the member states. It is they who give it life and a sense of direction. In the last analysis, it is for the members to decide whether the United Nations will have the strength, flexibility and resources needed to fulfil the increasing demands made upon it.

It was this obvious but so often overlooked aspect which the late Jawaharlal Nehru wished to emphasize when he proposed to the General Assembly in 1961 the designation of 1965 as International Co-operation Year. He considered that a period of time should be set aside in which people everywhere might take