

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 62/10 A CALM BUT VIGILANT VIEW OF WORLD AFFAIRS

Notes for an address to be made by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker to the National Convention of the International Association of Kinsmen Clubs, Regina, Saskatchewan - August 1962.

This summer, the international scene has provided its share of dramatic events but no real surprises have occurred. I wish I could say that tensions were subsiding and that a new wave of hope was surging in the affairs of men. Instead I must report, without despair but with due regard for potential dangers, that constant vigilance and calm judgment are still the prime requisites in assessing the current world situation.

Canadians are just old fashioned enough to believe that nations, like individual men and women, must conduct their relations on a basis of full respect for the rights of others and the solid performance of obligations undertaken. World peace and stability cannot be made secure unless and until these fundamental concepts become universally recognized.

Unparalleled Acceptance of Responsibility

In subscribing to the Charter of the United Nations, the member states have entered into the most comprehensive set of obligations ever conceived. It covers the whole range of international endeavour. It establishes a framework for human co-operation and activity, unlimited in its scope for dynamic development.

Today, 104 governments have subscribed to the principles of the United Nations. Within months, their numbers will increase yet again, as new nations emerge. The United Nations is rapidly approaching universality of membership.

We should ensure, at the same time, that the United Nations maintains a capacity for effective action, with its high purposes intact and inviolate. It will not do so if member states permit any deterioration of the Charter principles and their own standards of national and international conduct, both within the organization and outside it.