

After all, we are all Canadians, or should be, before we are Liberals, Conservatives or C.C.F.; before we are Quebeckers or Manitobans. So we should aim to face the outside world with a united front. Politics, it has been said by an American leader, should end at the water's edge.

Among the international problems facing us at this grave and depressing moment of post war history, by far the most important, before which every other problem pales into insignificance, is the prevention of a third world war. We hoped at San Francisco that we had found an agency for this purpose in the United Nations. The hopes of those days have begun to vanish as the world divides into two opposing and unfriendly camps; the free, democratic nations on one side, the reactionary communist despotisms on the other. In the face of this division, which colours and confuses every matter brought before the United Nations, from the status of women to the status of Jerusalem, our world organization has been weakened, in political questions, to the point of impotence.

Therefore we must regard with sombre realism, but without despair, the future of UN; a future which will be greatly affected for good or evil, by what happens at the United Nations Assembly which opened in Paris this afternoon.

The deliberations and decisions of this Assembly - and even more the outcome of the discussions between the great powers over Berlin - will, I think, largely determine whether the two worlds - democratic and communist - can cooperate on a basis of mutual toleration, at least; or whether they will continue to face each other with fear, suspicion and ill-will; if the latter, is there any hope for our security for peace in and through the United Nations?

If not, should we then scrap the United Nations? No, because, with all its faults and frustrations, it remains the only forum that exists for the expression of the world's conscience; because it has made already important contributions to man's welfare; because it is our only mechanism for universal international intercourse.

The fact, however, that the United Nations cannot guarantee our security does not mean that we need sit idly by and watch collective safety vanish. Inside the United Nations and within the terms of its Charter we can form regional security groups, the members of which will accept and carry out certain obligations for collective defence in the interest of their individual security.

Mr. St. Laurent, then Secretary of State for External Affairs, in his address at Toronto on June 11 of this year, said:

"Victory in war requires a pooling of risks and a pooling of resources. Victory over war requires a similar pooling by the Free Nations. Such a pooling cannot take place unless we realize that the giving of aid to an ally is not charity but self-help.

"We know that, divided, the Free Nations may fall, one by one, before the forces of totalitarian tyranny working within and without their borders, but that, united, they can preserve freedom and peace for all. Let us be not only willing but anxious to unite."

...../I want