

## FOREWORD

During the period covered by this report the United Nations passed through a period in which it was perhaps more severely tested than at any time since its creation. Opinions differ strongly as to how the United Nations stood that test, and it is not surprising that many people in Canada and elsewhere are troubled and uncertain. Many people sincerely believe that in the past year the United Nations showed grave weaknesses, that it was incapable of effective action in Hungary, and that its decisions in Egypt were ill-advised and unjust. Therefore, they argue, we should either abandon the United Nations altogether or cease to take it seriously in the pursuit of our national policies.

For my part, I do not believe that these tragic conclusions are justified. I do believe that there is much in the work of the United Nations which is unsatisfactory, but I believe also that now is the time for us to give earnest and fearless consideration to the ways in which the organization can be strengthened so that it can cope with unhealthy trends. I am not dismayed by all the controversy over the role of the United Nations because I hope that out of this controversy may come some answers to the questions we must ask ourselves.

Much of the critical comment on the role of the United Nations which we hear today is perhaps based on erroneous conceptions of what the organization is or purports to be. And I am thinking both of those who believe the United Nations has fallen into the hands of a lot of wild men who use it simply to abuse civilized people, and of those who think that it is a perfect instrument of peace and justice to settle all the problems of the world. The fact to remember is that the United Nations is none other than the nations of this earth with all their weaknesses and conflicts. It is not some heavenly body beyond our world's problems. It cannot accomplish what we its members are unprepared to do. Those who say that the United Nations failed because it didn't get the Russians out of Hungary must recognize that the only thing the United Nations could have done was to ask Canadian and other troops to parachute into Hungary and drive out by force the world's largest army. These are the facts which we cannot conceal beneath fine phrases about collective security. The United Nations is merely a reflection of the world as it exists. We cannot expect it to dissolve the Red Army or halt the transformation of empires with a resolution.

I think there may be less pessimism about the United Nations as an institution among Canadians than in other quarters because, although we have always looked upon it as an essential framework for international collaboration, we have taken the view from the beginning that in the present state of the world there is a limit to what we should expect of it. Whatever our aspirations for the future, we have thought it a mistake to conceive of the United Nations as anything in the nature of a world government which