

the record as a fitting setting for the discussion upon which this house is embarking at this time:

Charter of the United Nations.

We the peoples of the united nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, and for these ends to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.

Accordingly our respective governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present charter of the united nations, and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the united nations.

Does anybody doubt that Field Marshal Smuts, and those who collaborated with him in drafting this preamble, correctly interpreted the aspirations and the determination of the peoples of the united nations, of the hundreds of millions of men, women and children throughout the world, of the hundreds of millions of common people throughout the world, upon so many of whom the scourge of the last two wars has borne so heavily and to each of whom it has brought such untold loss and suffering and sorrow?

At San Francisco the respective governments of these hundreds of millions of common people seem to have sought, through their representatives, to set up an organization which, if all these respective governments will allow it to function in the same spirit of live and let live in which it was conceived, can realize the true aspirations and determination of these common people everywhere; the aspirations and the determination to have international peace and mutual security based upon mutual belief, confidence and trust in each other's honesty of intention and sincerity of purpose, rather upon the precarious balance of power blocs or the shifting delimitations of spheres of influence.

Can the common people everywhere and at all times make their aspirations and determination heard and implemented by all their

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

respective governments and all those acting and speaking on their behalf in large or small, open or secret international conferences and committees?

Must we here not hope, if we hope for the ultimate success of the world organization, that an affirmative answer is or soon will be possible? We at least know that it is the correct answer in so far as our own nation is concerned, and it is because we know it that this resolution is before the house to-day.

We know that this house is truly representative of all the common people of the Canadian nation. We know that in this house the concept of a nation or state, as something different and something above the men and women and children who make up the nation, does not prevail. We know that those who attempt to speak and to act for this nation derive their right to do so from those men, women and children, and that they must at all times be mindful of their interests, of the interests of those same men, women and children, and even to a degree, of their own conception of what are their best interests.

That is why the Prime Minister, when moving on March 20 last, a resolution approving the participation of Canada in the San Francisco conference, told the house that the charter would, before ratification, be submitted to parliament for approval. At that time the Prime Minister said:

In proposing this course, the government is following the procedure customary with respect to treaties. No treaty or obligation could be more solemn than that which the united nations would assume under the charter. The course which the government is proposing would, moreover, ensure to a parliament newly elected by the people, the final word with respect to the adoption of the charter.

The charter was signed by fifty nations. A copy of it was tabled as treaty series number 7 on September 7; a copy of the report submitted on behalf of the Canadian delegation at San Francisco was tabled on September 10. I have been informed by the distribution office that copies were at that time forwarded through the mail to each hon. member of this house.

It is a significant fact that fifty states comprising the larger part of the civilized world have been able to reach agreement, and that they were all prepared to sign this charter. Those of us who were there know there were times during the San Francisco conference when difficulties and differences of view loomed very large, but in the end agreement was reached. When the conference met we were till in the midst of a great war. Most of those assembled at San Francisco represented countries whose peoples were making heroic efforts and very heavy sacrifices to