

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

It is a great honour to represent Canada here today as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations during this General Debate. Canada has always been among the strongest supporters of the UN, in word and in deed.

In 1945, Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King was an original signatory of the United Nations Charter. John Humphrey helped write the UN's 1948 *Universal Declaration on Human Rights*. Successive Canadian ambassadors to the United Nations have distinguished themselves in the service of the Organization, as have countless Canadian negotiators in areas ranging from disarmament, to trade, to development. In addition, Lester Pearson won a Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to the UN's success in establishing the first peacekeeping operation in 1956.

All of these Canadians had a unifying purpose: to promote progress in implementing the UN's Charter, which enshrines the commitment of the people of the United Nations to the advancement of humanity.

Of course, there have been criticisms of the Organization: many are legitimate and require attention. It is clear, however, that the international community remains committed to the goals of the Charter and to the United Nations as the primary instrument for global problem solving.

The UN deserves our continued support. If we examine the record of just the last few years, the UN has conducted successful peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, Mozambique and Haiti. Thanks to the UN, in this decade alone, five million children will grow up normally, children who would otherwise have been paralyzed by polio. In 1995, the UN is working to ensure a better life for the almost 23 million refugees in the world today.

Global resolve to support the UN, and to advance the interests of the international community, has been recently underscored by such successes as the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]. At the Halifax Summit in June, chaired by our Prime Minister, the P-8 [Political Eight] leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment to the UN system of international institutions and added their ideas for revitalizing it.

The central message is clear - we must take this momentous opportunity to confirm and renew our commitment to the United Nations.

To do so, we require a renewed vision for the next 50 years. This vision must be centred on not just striving for, but achieving human security based on the freedom of people everywhere to live in peace, without fear, to be prosperous, and