



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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No. 64/7 The United Nations in an Era of Limited Peace

Text of a Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, to the Empire Club, Toronto, on April 2, 1964.

... In a thought-provoking lecture on March 24, Mr. Adlai Stevenson suggested that the world had moved beyond the policy of containment to a policy of cease-fire and peaceful change. He called it an era of "limited peace". He asked some penetrating questions about what can and must be done to ensure that the nations pursue the path of peaceful settlement of disputes and situations.

The attitude of states toward war is all important in this regard. Governments and people everywhere must re-examine critically the notions that some wars are justified and that warfare can be limited. The plain fact of contemporary history - which most states see clearly - is that beyond every brushfire conflict lies nuclear conflagration and world-wide devastation. A threat to the peace in any part of the world poses a threat to all nations which none can take lightly.

This stark fact underlines the urgency of strengthening the sinews of peace, of improving the international means for dealing effectively with the sparks of armed incident and the dangers of unresolved dispute. The United Nations is one means, but how effective is it?

Pressing Problems in Cyprus

The Cyprus situation presents the United Nations and its members with some pressing problems of far-reaching importance and implication. Some of them are fraught with immediate risks to the maintenance of peace. Others hold potential threat for the effective existence of the United Nations in future. Canada has been deeply concerned about these developments - not only in recent weeks but as the underlying dilemma has deepened in the United Nations during the past few years. Our relief about small gains made has not diverted our attention from the large issues which undermine the United Nations capacity to respond to the recurring demands of peace.