

the United Nations will produce a solution to problems on which the two most powerful nations of the world may have diametrically opposed views, which cannot be reconciled.

6. During the last two years, Canadian faith in the United Nations, as an effective organization for peace and security, has been shaken. What is unshaken is the Canadian determination to make of it, or within it, an effective organization for these purposes. Unshaken, also, is the Canadian faith that this can be achieved. It is therefore important that the United Nations be kept in existence and that every possible use be made of the very high degree of vitality which it has shown, particularly in those disputes which are not directly within the area of conflict between the Eastern European states and the rest of the world.

7. Canada's willingness to stand for, and its ability to obtain, election to the Security Council last autumn was an earnest of the Canadian desire to play its full part in the United Nations. Yet it should be pointed out that the position of a power of the middle rank on the Security Council is a difficult one. A small power is, in a sense, by its very smallness relieved from much of the responsibility which participation in decisions involves, and which the implementation of such decisions requires. At the other extreme the Great Powers can protect their positions with the veto. However a "middle power", such as Canada, is in a different position. Its economic strength and political influence are of importance, and the moral and material contribution which it can make to collective action, as the last two World Wars have shown, is very significant. The judgments which the Canadian Government makes on United Nations matters must therefore be made with care and a sense of responsibility, particularly because Canada is a country which has the reputation of conscientiously carrying out the commitments into which it has entered. Yet it is not always easy for Canada to obtain credit for independence and honesty of argument and decision. Canada will nevertheless continue to make decisions objectively, in the light of its obligations to its own people and their interest in the welfare of the international community.

8. This, therefore, is the underlying policy of the Canadian Government towards the United Nations. An analysis of Canada's role in the United Nations to date will possibly reveal that this policy has shown a consistent pattern and has had a generally constructive, though not spectacular, effect. Such an examination of Canada's policy might also reveal that a basis has been well laid for an even more important and exacting role to be played by Canada in the future.

## II. COLLECTIVE SECURITY

### (a) The International Control of Atomic Energy

9. One of the most important issues which have come before the United Nations in its short existence concerns the attempt to set up a universally acceptable method for the international control of atomic energy. The General Assembly established an Atomic Energy Commission for this purpose two and a half years ago and yet no such generally acceptable agreement has so far been reached. The Atomic Energy Commission made three reports which were discussed in the Security Council. Again no agreement was reached in the Council and the Atomic Energy Commission's Reports were merely transmitted for consideration at the present Session of the General Assembly in Paris.