

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 54/6 Text of address given by Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at a luncheon at the Empire Club, Toronto, February 25, 1954.

(See also Supplementary Paper 54/7 containing Mr. Hammarskjöld's address at a Convocation of Carleton College, Ottawa, on February 26, 1954, at which he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.)

It is a source of special gratification to me to visit Canada and to be the guest today of this distinguished gathering. This is for several reasons.

Need I tell you what great personal admiration and affection I have for the man who was President of the General Assembly of the United Nations when I started my work there -- your Secretary of State for External Affairs, Lester B. Pearson. I am sure it will not be news to you to hear that this admiration and affection are shared by many, many others -- foreign ministers and other representatives of countries large and small, and officials of the Secretariat high and low -- who have worked with him. His term as President of the seventh session of the General Assembly was not the first occasion, nor, I am sure, will it be the last, upon which he has exerted a significant influence on the side of that positive and constructive approach to world problems which is epitomized in the United Nations Charter.

But it is not only because of Mr. Pearson and other distinguished representatives of Canada that the United Nations has come to expect in its debates to hear from Canada the voice of reason and enlightenment, rejecting the extremes of partisanship, seeking patiently the common ground for men of good will, yet always standing firm upon the basic principles and purposes of our world organization. Canada, with its rich traditions from many peoples, harmoniously blended, and its key position between two great nations in the Western world, is also a nation with a rich future. All these elements are truly reflected in Canada's constructive role in world affairs.

Indeed, the history and traditions of your country have prepared you in an unusual degree to play an important part in the development of the United Nations. On the political side you have, by constructive compromise based on reciprocal respect for freedom, developed a working partnership of peoples that unites in one nation a diversity of cultural backgrounds. And in the wider framework of the British Commonwealth you have had long experience, together with your fellow members, in the methods and the mutual advantages of a working partnership of independent nations freely united for common ends.

It is about the place of the United Nations in the international scene, with special relevance to these