

Palestine, to Kashmir and Indonesia and Korea and other places where angry men have stood in opposition with arms in their hands, -- and where, on occasion, peace has broken down in acts of war, of riot and insurrection, of sabotage and murder, -- where, only with the greatest difficulty and by reason of the persistent and devoted endeavours of the servants of the United Nations on the spot has the conflict been kept in bounds and held from precipitating some general conflagration. Now we have the added problems of Yugoslavia and China. Most unfortunately the world of today is a very disturbed place.

We have heard much in the way of criticism of the Security Council for not preventing the outbreak of these disturbances -- but they do not originate in the United Nations. On the contrary they are the consequence of ancient national rivalries or of group ambitions or old animosities or trends in the affairs of men which have flared up anew. They are the troubles for which the United Nations was set up to find an answer, not the faults of the organization itself. In some circles also it has become a habit -- a very bad and unfortunate and unjustified habit I would say -- to impute the competency of the Security Council.

My answer to this is that the Security Council does not as yet dispose of any armed force for use as police or to repel aggression, and could not therefore in any case compel obedience. On the contrary the Security Council, as matters stand, is restricted to the employment solely of the arts of persuasion, with its only weapon an informed world opinion -- I say that despite all these restrictions which many people might consider insuperable handicaps, nevertheless there is not a single dispute which has come before the Council which has not been checked and in some measure advanced towards solution. And so, I for one -- and I think many others as well -- will hold with reason to the hopeful view that we are -- even if slowly and despite the Soviet -- advancing towards a state where the rule of law will in the end prevail.

It is not my purpose today to talk to you about the many problems which have been before the Security Council since we have held membership. The time available does not permit the marshalling of the details required for their statement and explanation but there is one matter in which Canada has been specially concerned which I would like to bring before you because I believe that in the long-term view all our other security problems are transient in comparison and fade into insignificance before the dangers and the difficulties which it presents. I refer to the problem of the international control of atomic energy which has again flared into public attention with the announcement made by the President of the United States on September 23 that an atomic explosion had taken place in the territories of the U.S.S.R. Anxiety over the control of atomic energy has troubled the nations of the world during the four years which have passed since the first man-made nuclear explosion took place in the desert of New Mexico on July 16, 1945, when the first experimental atomic bomb was detonated with awe-inspiring results in most remarkable accord with the predictions and prior calculation of the physicists and engineers.

Shortly thereafter, as you will recall, two atomic bombs were exploded over Japan and these had very immediate consequences in inducing the surrender of that country. Thus