

MEMBERSHIP IN UN

The supreme example of Canada joining with other nations to seek international objectives is our membership in the United Nations. In the UN and its associated international agencies we have the opportunity to play a part in every aspect of the struggle to build a stable and just world order — peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights, liberalization of international trade, aid to developing countries, codification of international law. In most cases we find it advantageous to work closely in the UN with other middle powers but not exclusively. Sometimes the cause of world order is advanced most effectively by supporting the initiative of a superpower. Sometimes a very small state puts forward a valuable and important proposal, as Malta did on the exploitation of the resources of the ocean floor. Canada has long supported the principle of universality of membership of the UN in the belief that every nation has something to contribute....

As I mentioned earlier, one of the most dramatic changes that has occurred in the world scene in the past 25 years is the proliferation of middle powers. We live in a time of the dissolution of empires. The empires of the Western European powers are largely gone and only a few small remnants remain. The ideological empires seem also to be loosening. They are certainly not nearly so monolithic as they were 20 years ago. Moscow and Peking now vie for ideological leadership of the Communist world. Yugoslavia is communist but non-aligned and Romania and Czechoslovakia are restless under the Soviet yoke.

The result of a situation in which there are vastly greater numbers of independent states, or states with a greater degree of independence, is that the pattern of political relations throughout the world is constantly shifting, unstable and unpredictable. It is immensely encouraging that so many peoples have acquired far more personal and national freedom than they ever had before, but this very freedom may lead initially to dangerous tensions or violent outbreaks. In various corners of the world, peoples who have been under the dominance of an imperial power are struggling to establish a new equilibrium. Such is the case in Vietnam, Nigeria and Czechoslovakia....

MOST PRESSING ISSUES

As I see it, two of the most important foreign policy questions facing Canada today are what we do about the issues of peace and war in parts of the world with which we formerly hardly concerned ourselves, and what we do about the enormous disparity between rich and poor all over the world. We have long been closely concerned about events in Europe, and rightly so. We are an offshoot of European civilization; that is where the bulk of our population traces its origins, where we have very large economic interests and where the most immediate threat to our security lies. We cannot turn our backs on Europe but we are compelled to add new dimensions to our thinking about other parts of the world.

Canada has been drawn, partly by the accident of membership in the Commonwealth, into assisting in the struggle for economic viability of first India, Pakistan and Ceylon, and later other Commonwealth nations in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. We have found ourselves grappling at the United Nations with the complexities of such issues as the Korean War, the Congo rebellion, Cyprus and the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East. We were called to play a part in the International Control Commissions set up so hopefully in 1954 to supervise the settlement in Vietnam after France's withdrawal. We now have to decide whether we are to continue all or some of these involvements, to broaden out our interests abroad, or to concentrate on certain international functions and certain areas of the world.

Canada's contribution to international development assistance now amounts to more than \$300 million annually and we are pledged to increase it to 1 per cent of national income. Our programme is a respectable one in size and effectiveness. But we have a lot of urgent questions to answer about our aid. Should we concentrate more of it in certain countries or in certain sectors of development? What should be the relative emphasis on grants and loans of various kinds and on trade concessions? As a middle power, are there special things Canada can do better than other countries? To what extent should we pool our efforts with those of other contributors? As development assistance becomes an increasingly important part of our international activities, questions like these become much more critical.

FRENCH-SPEAKING NATIONS

One new dimension that has been added to Canadian activities in the world in recent years is that of the active projection abroad of the bilingual and bicultural aspects of our nationhood. French-speaking Canadians now urgently seek to play a role in national and international affairs more in keeping with their weight in the Canadian population. The signing of the France-Canada Cultural Agreement in 1965 marked a major step in a conscious effort to represent the French fact in Canada more adequately in our external relations. As I have mentioned, for historical reasons we found ourselves fairly closely associated with the newly independent members of the Commonwealth in Africa and Asia. We were slower to develop comparable ties with the newly independent *francophone* countries, but we are now rapidly expanding these relations. A proper reflection in foreign policy of our bicultural character is vitally important in strengthening the unity of our Canadian nation. It is also an opportunity for Canada to play a greater role in the world.

An area in which our foreign policy has been unbalanced in the past is in the American Hemisphere. Beyond the United States, we have been somewhat tardy in developing an active collaboration with the countries of the Caribbean, and even slower to seek out closer relations with the nations of Latin