



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADIAN STATEMENT IN THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

By the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honorable Mitchell Sharp, New York, September 29, 1969..

Madame President:

Twenty-four years ago your delegation to the first General Assembly was one of four from the continent of Africa. Today that number has increased nine-fold. In electing you to preside over the Assembly this year we acknowledge your personal contribution to the United Nations as well as the distinguished service your delegation has provided to us.

I should also like to join with those who have preceded me in this debate in paying tribute to our distinguished President of last year, Mr. Arenales. We remember him as a statesman who served his country and the United Nations faithfully and well.

As the United Nations approaches its twenty-fifth anniversary, it is faced with three imperatives: first, to avoid the scourge of global war and to contain and settle more limited conflicts; second, to speed the way to economic and social justice for the hundreds of millions of people who are now deprived of both; and third, to come to grips with the serious institutional problems facing the organization at this time. This morning I shall have something to say on each of these matters as they appear to the Canadian Government.

Of these imperatives the first two -- the prevention of war and the struggle to raise the standard of living -- are perhaps as old as mankind itself. The third, to strengthen and renew this organization, is new, and is peculiar to this time and this place. I choose, however, to deal with this question first, since Canada believes that the United Nations must fail to reach its goals if it cannot come to grips with its own problems. It is hard indeed to build something of value, something that will stand, if your tools are blunted and ill-designed for the purpose.