

CONCLUSION

I have outlined the general policy of the Canadian Government towards the United Nations and have illustrated how this policy has been put into practice in regard to certain specific issues under the general heading of collective security. I would like to mention now certain basic principles which govern Canada's policy in external affairs and which reflect themselves in our participation in the United Nations.

In the first place, Canada is quick, of course, to recognize the limitations imposed upon us as a secondary power. I would like to quote again from the Gray lecture delivered by our Secretary of State for External Affairs in Toronto, January 13, 1947, —

"No society of nations can prosper if it does not have the support of those who hold a major share of the world's military and economic power. There is little point in a country of our stature recommending international action if those who must carry the major burden of whatever action is taken are not in sympathy."

Yet, although Canada must realistically recognize that our role in the United Nations is not a paramount one, it would be even less realistic to pretend that we have no influence. Canada has both the capacity and independence to press vigorously for the principles we believe in. Nor will they be casually dismissed. This has already been proven many times.

Secondly, Canada's Government, like all democratic governments, must frame its policy in such a way that it achieves general support from all sections of our people and not merely from special groups or interests. To quote once more from the Gray lecture, —

"A policy of world affairs, to be truly effective, must have its foundations laid upon general principles which have been tested in the life of the nation and which have secured the broad support of large groups of the population... No policy can be regarded as wise which divides the people whose effort and resources must put it into effect."

Considerations of national unity must, therefore, be a matter of primary concern in Canada's external policy — again as in the case of all other democratic states.

The third principle, I believe, which has been reflected in Canadian policy, is our conception of political liberty. We are all conscious of the danger to our own political institutions when freedom is attacked in other parts of the world. Consistently we have sought and found our friends among those of similar political traditions of liberty. This concern with political freedom leads inevitably to another fundamental principle of Canada's external policy — the rule of law in international affairs. In our own Canadian political system the supremacy of law is so familiar that we are perhaps inclined to take it for granted. Internationally we have, however, in recent times, witnessed a degree of lawlessness, the like of which has never previously afflicted the world. Yet, if we really believe in the principles of our own society, we must be governed by them in our international relations. If our experience tells us that the only healthy society is one in which the people give their consent to the laws by which they are governed, then we must work unceasingly for the acceptance of this rule of law in the international sphere. The Canadian Government has constantly followed this principle.

These are some of the broad principles which underlie Canada's external policy and which have reflected themselves in our participation