

reconciled, however, to a permanent situation in which a distinction is made between five nations of the world which are defined as Great Powers and all other nations, which, despite the great differences amongst them, are placed together in a less privileged position. The solution of this problem will not be easy, and I do not think that any simple constitutional amendment nor any mere reform in procedure will solve it. Our difficulties will be removed only by the establishment, over a period of time, of precedents and practices which will lead to a modification of the veto power. We are fully conscious, therefore, that if we are elected to the Security Council, our influence on that body will be limited by the superior voting powers which are enjoyed by some members of that body.

You may well ask, therefore, why the Government, in the presence of these difficulties, has decided to make known its readiness to serve on the Security Council. We shall become involved directly with questions such as the Balkan dispute and the Indonesian problem which do not now come immediately before our attention. We shall be endeavouring to find solutions to problems which are complicated by the unresolved differences amongst the Great Powers and we shall be taking part in the activities of a body which the world knows to be far from perfect. Why should we state our willingness to serve?

To my mind there is only one answer to this question. In spite of its shortcomings, we in this country continue to believe that the best hope for mankind lies in the establishment of a world organization for the maintenance of peace. We ourselves in this country have built a nation which is as wide as the continent and which is based on the consent of many diversified groups. There is no reason to believe that our experience here and the experience of other peoples who have built political organizations over wide areas cannot be repeated amongst the nations. We believe that, particularly for a people such as our own which wishes to maintain its freedom and to leave other people in the enjoyment of theirs, the greatest hope for our survival lies in the development of machinery for international cooperation.

If we wish to enjoy the benefits of such a development we must also accept its responsibilities. We must even be prepared to accept these responsibilities at a time when the going is hard and when the future is by no means certain. I do not think that the people of this country would tolerate any other attitude on the part of its representatives to the United Nations. I am certain that we carry the support of every thoughtful Canadian in our determination to make every effort towards the success of this new experiment in international organization. I have already made a statement to this general effect in Parliament during the debate on the estimates of the Department of External Affairs on July 4th last, and I should like to repeat now what I said at that time, because it seemed to meet with approval from all parts of the House:

It has been hoped, and indeed it is still hoped, at least as far as I am concerned, that the United Nations can be the agency to counteract these dividing forces, that it can act as an organization of civilized states within which universal and friendly co-operation will become possible and should be realized. It is because it still thinks that this can be done that the Canadian Government feels that the growth and strengthening of the United Nations must be a real cornerstone of Canada's policy in foreign affairs. It would be folly to disparage