

Canada is in full agreement with this dynamic view of the nature of the United Nations. As the Secretary of State for External Affairs told the House of Commons on March 28, 1963:

"In spite of its imperfections, this international instrument has demonstrated its capacity to respond to most of the basic needs of the international community."

Canada, indeed, may be said to have taken an optimistic view of the potentialities of the United Nations, a view which is, nevertheless, not unmindful of the realities of a world of sovereign states. For, in these days of bewildering technical progress, a sense of realism is also a sense of optimism in the future ability of mankind to bring order out of chaos. Canada's view was summed up by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the occasion of the United Nations' tenth anniversary:

To make a true assessment of the value of the United Nations, it should be considered primarily not as an alternative to painstaking diplomatic negotiations, but as a symbol of the community of nations and peoples, and an attempt to work out the implications of their interdependence, the recognition of which is its starting point. This world community is yet a very shadowy and insubstantial thing, but it is a goal toward the realization of which we may work. Like all the best symbols of the greatest truths, the United Nations is not an inanimate thing, a badge or a flag; it is human, and alive, made up of men. It is embryonic, certainly, but it has at least the possibility of progressive development into a real community. Is there any other way than this to reach our one world, except that of total destruction and total subjection? Is there ultimately any other kind of world for the hydrogen age?

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(1) Introduction to the Annual Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization, June 16, 1960, to June 15, 1961.