



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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No. 51/46 CANADIAN STATEMENT AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Text of the statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the Sixth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made in the general debate in plenary session on November 12, 1951.

May I begin, Sir, as so many others have begun, by expressing the pleasure of my delegation at being once again in this lovely city of Paris, and in this great and hospitable country of France.

I confess that we did not support the move to transfer the Sixth Assembly from New York to Paris, but our motives for not doing so will not, I am sure, be misunderstood by our French friends. They were no reflection on the affection which we have for France, a mother country of the Canadian nation, but were dictated by considerations of that prudent economy which is itself a notable French characteristic.

This general discussion provides the opportunity for an annual stock-taking of our world organization. This year not much comfort or hope results from that process. One should not jump to the hasty conclusion that we are bankrupt, because we are not. But we are certainly losing some credit. The reply of Mr. Vishinsky on Thursday afternoon last to the statement of Mr. Acheson that morning showed in a dramatic fashion how far this wastage of assets has gone.

The United Nations remains our last, best hope for peace. But the emphasis is shifting from best to last. We will have to stop that shift if our world organization is to survive as an effective instrument to maintain peace and promote security.

On the credit side much valuable, though often unspectacular work in the social, economic and humanitarian fields has been accomplished. The struggle against hunger and privation goes on, and the United Nations is playing a gallant part in it. In our disappointment over some other aspects of United Nations work, we should not forget that fact. But even this social and humanitarian work is impeded, and often frustrated by political factors, though it should be far above such considerations. It is also held back by the fact that one great group of powers, which never cease to boast of its peaceful, humanitarian ideals, or its technical advances and social development, is making practically no contribution to that work. Indeed, the leader of those powers, the U.S.S.R., has refused to participate in the work of a single one of the technical and specialized