

FOREWORD

This volume, the latest of a series, adds one more chapter to the history of the development of the United Nations as seen through Canadian eyes.

The basic aims of Canadian foreign policy, in which I include the prevention of war and safeguarding of our national security, the maintenance of existing friendly ties, the improvement of relations with all countries, and the development of international trade and world prosperity, are all furthered in a special way through Canadian participation in the various activities of the United Nations.

The effectiveness of the United Nations as an instrument for ensuring by the use of collective force the safeguarding of international peace has never been established in the way that the Charter envisaged because of the political division between the Soviet Union and its supporters and the opponents of Soviet policy. The value of the United Nations in the conciliation of disputes and differences between nations has likewise been affected by the East-West conflict, and by the difficulties which present themselves for individual nations when conflicting national interests require in the international interest to be resolved. To admit these limitations is merely to face the facts of international life. The United Nations' record nevertheless includes significant achievements in the cause of peace. The United Nations remains a unique and indispensable instrument of international diplomacy which has achieved important results in all of the various spheres of activity for which it was created.

Canadian participation in the debates in United Nations bodies and in United Nations activities provides an exceptional method of becoming informed in detail of the views of other nations and of the importance which they attach to various aspects of their foreign policies. Canada must take into account the views of other nations as made known in the United Nations and at the same time is enabled to make known its own views on a wide range of international problems and to exert its influence for their acceptance. Diplomatic exchanges between nations in furtherance of the national interest are carried out in many other ways, but these have a special importance in the United Nations because of the very nature of its multilateral discussions and their influence on the formation of governmental policies and upon public opinion throughout the world.

In the record of United Nations activities set out in the following pages we find cause for disappointment in the failure to achieve significant progress in disarmament. Political controversies which have long disturbed international relations continue in an acute form with little apparent progress being made towards their settlement. The United Nations condemnation of the Soviet Union for its repression of the Hungarian people's heroic struggle for liberty has been ineffectual. As the nations of the world have not been able to agree upon a system for the just settlement of all disputes we must await for the solution of many problems a change in the policies of governments. The task of the United Nations to effect such changes and to find a basis for mutual agreement will require long and patient effort.

Great scientific achievements and technological progress have brought to mankind in our age a greater power for destruction than he has ever before