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VIEWS OF CANADA ON MATTERS BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS

I. GENERAL CANADIAN POLICY TOWARDS THE UNITED NATIONS

1. Canada's policy towards the United Nations is, perhaps, most concisely stated in an extract from a speech delivered by the former Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Rt. Hon. L.S. St. Laurent, in Toronto on January 13, 1947: "The growth in this country of a sense of political responsibility on an international scale has perhaps been less rapid than some of us would like. It has nevertheless been a perceptible growth; and again and again on the major questions of participation in international organization, both in peace and war, we have taken our decision to be present. If there is one conclusion that our common experience has led us to accept, it is that security for this country lies in the development of a firm structure of international organization." Canada's policy is thus one of full support for the United Nations.
2. The Canadian Government is however fully aware of the inadequacy of the United Nations at the present time in providing the nations of the world with the security which they require. The realities of this situation and the policy of the Canadian Government in respect of it were summarized briefly in a statement by Mr. St. Laurent in the House of Commons on April 20, 1948.
3. Mr. St. Laurent then stated that the Canadian Government is opposed to encouraging or fostering any activity which might, at the moment, provide any state with a legitimate excuse for withdrawing from the United Nations. On the other hand, he said that Canada would not refrain from any action which it knew to be right merely because it displeased certain other member states. Canada would continue to give every assistance to constructive efforts to make the United Nations into the instrument for security and co-operation which it was originally designed to be; and in the meantime would utilize its present possibilities to the fullest extent.
4. Canada intends to oppose demands on the United Nations which at the moment are too heavy for its resources. The Canadian belief is, for example, that the United Nations should not attempt to undertake administrative responsibilities and police activities in various parts of the world before it has been given the means which may be required for carrying out these responsibilities.
5. The Canadian Government also recognizes that the effectiveness of the United Nations is at present greatly reduced by the divisions which have grown up between the countries of Eastern Europe and the countries of the rest of the world. Until, therefore, there has been some measure of settlement of the issues that divide the world, too much should not be expected from the United Nations in its present form and organization. No one, for instance, should expect that the machinery of