



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 64/25

SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE TWENTIETH YEAR OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Speech by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the United Nations Association of Pittsburgh, October 20, 1964.

It is a great pleasure for me to be in Pittsburgh today to address this annual United Nations Day luncheon. I feel honoured by your invitation and particularly value the opportunity to give you a Canadian view of the progress and problems of the United Nations.

We are now on the eve of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations. The infant organization of 1945 has shown a surprising capacity for sustained growth. It has survived, although there were times when many doubted that it would. It has shown resiliency in the face of frequent attempts by the Communist states to limit its function to that of a debating society. It has steadily grown in strength -- despite crises which seemed to threaten its very existence.

I ask you to consider this proposition -- that the United Nations now fills an accepted and honoured role in the conduct of international relations. It would be infinitely more difficult to keep the peace, to build up confidence among states, and to grapple with the great problem of under-development without the existence of an agency such as the United Nations.

There is a corollary to this proposition, however, and that is this -- if peace keeping by the United Nations has now become a practical necessity in the conduct of international affairs, then it must be provided for, planned for and paid for as a collective responsibility. The same proposition holds true of United Nations activities in the economic and social fields.

The Impact of the New Member States

The United Nations as an institution is currently passing through a period of profound change. Its internal structure is changing, as is the political climate within which it must operate. This is largely due to the great increase in membership that has taken place since 1945. It was my particular privilege in 1955 to be able to play a part in breaking the log-jam that had for many years frustrated attempts to give the United Nations membership a more truly representative complexion. Since then the way has been cleared for