



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
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## REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION (Part II)

Statement by the Parliamentary Assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Jean Lesage, made in the House of Commons on March 25, 1952.

...When the Secretary of State for External Affairs opened this debate last Friday he said that there were some aspects of our external policy that he would not have time to discuss then, but he expected me to deal with some of them at this time. I should like this afternoon first to review briefly the results of the Sixth Session of the General Assembly, which is the last Session of the Assembly of the United Nations, and then to elaborate on the subject of assistance to underdeveloped countries, with which I myself was particularly concerned.

I would not deny to the House that the recent sessions of the General Assembly left many of the participants with a sense of depression. We all know that the General Assembly exists primarily to further the cause of peace and security and to promote the general welfare of all peoples. It is a meeting place where we hope to relieve the tensions between the free world and the Soviet world, and to reach satisfactory political settlements by conciliation and peaceful negotiations. It cannot be said that the Sixth Session achieved a great deal in terms of these basic purposes.

Nevertheless I would not wish to leave the impression that this meeting, or any other similar meeting during the past year has, in any sense, altered my own basic conviction that we must give full support to the United Nations.

The organization still affords opportunities for negotiation between the free world and the Soviet world, provided that the will to carry on such negotiations is present. This was shown, for instance, in the Berlin blockade, where a casual conversation between a Soviet and a United States representative led to negotiations which eventually ended this explosive episode.

Again, in several complicated disputes, on which the non-Communist world has been divided, such as those which have prevailed in Kashmir, Indonesia and Palestine, the United Nations has provided machinery which has yielded important results in ending hostilities.

Moreover, the organization brings together in loose association all the countries of the world which are opposed to Soviet aggression. Indeed, it provides the greatest agency existing today for reconciling the views of the highly developed countries of the West and the less developed countries of Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. At the present time it brings together those states which are taking active