

*United Nations Charter Reform*

putes, and to promote co-operation, peace and prosperity and in particular, to seek amendments to the Charter articles dealing with peacekeeping, the veto power, financing, membership and arms control.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in this century the peoples of the world have suffered two horrible major wars. Since the end of the last World War there have been 48 major and minor wars. These wars have resulted in a horrible loss of life, great losses of property and the waste of large sums of money and resources. We have just finished a terrible civil war in Nigeria. After 30 months of fighting and killing, many people in the world might ask what has been accomplished? What do wars accomplish in settling disputes between peoples and nations?

Many people throughout the world, not just in Canada, ask what we can do about this, and what can individuals do about this. They ask if this waste and destruction is necessary in this age when we can travel to the moon, when we can transplant hearts and kidneys, when we can transmit information throughout the world by satellite and when we have computers that can calculate in a millionth of a second work that used to be done in hours. They ask why cannot man come up with a civilized way of preventing military aggression and doing away with wars as a means of settling international disputes.

In 1945 there was great hope for the world when the United Nations adopted the UN Charter. I think one of the greatest documents ever adopted by mankind is the preamble of that Charter which states:

We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind—

It goes on to say that they have come together to unite their strength to maintain international peace and security. Unfortunately, despite the good intentions of 1945, the UN Charter and the United Nations have not been able to guarantee to the world the security and peace it desires. This is not to say that the United Nations has been a failure. I think it has been of much value. Many people criticize it for being inadequate and want to do away with it altogether. I think that would be a real mistake. Had we not had the present United Nations, I believe perhaps we would have had more major wars since 1945. The very fact that these nations can come together to talk out their problems is an indication of some success. At least they are talking and not shooting and killing. I think

this in itself is of value. But despite this, the security we hoped for back in 1945 has not been provided. I should also like to point out that much of the good work being done by the United Nations today is work which was not fully contemplated in 1945. About 80 per cent of the good work done by the United Nations is in the economic field and is carried out by the specialized agencies.

Despite this I say to this House, this government, this country and this world, that we must devise some system whereby we can minimize war and if possible do away with it as a means of settling disputes. I believe the United Nations Charter should be reformed. When the present charter was adopted in 1945 there were only 51 members of the United Nations. Now there are 126. In Chapter XVIII of the Charter, there are provisions for amending the Charter, but the provisions have not been used as fully as many people would like. In my resolution I propose reform of the United Nations under certain headings.

First of all, I refer to peacekeeping. Because that is one of the most complex areas, I will leave it to the end along with the heading arms control. Let me go on to the second matter which is the veto power. Under Article 27(3) of the United Nations Charter the Security Council cannot act unless it has the unanimous support of all five permanent members. As the world knows, the power to veto action at the United Nations by one of the big five has often frustrated the United Nations and the world in their efforts to take the necessary action.

I suggest, to begin with, that we amend the Charter to provide that the Security Council be increased from 15 members to 17 members; that we have 7 permanent members instead of 5 and that the two new permanent members be Japan and Brazil. Of course, I believe it goes without question that the real government of China must replace the present government of China; that is, the Republic of China represented by the government in Peking must replace the present government which is represented at the United Nations if we are to have a truly representative Security Council. I suggest a Security Council with 17 members and 7 permanent members, including the real government of China, Japan and Brazil. I suggest also that the single veto power be taken away and replaced by a veto power of five permanent members. I feel that a veto power of five permanent members would give a much more representative value to the actions of the Security Council because if you do have five