

Increasingly, also, we are dividing ourselves as members of the United Nations into smaller groups. I think that this is in many respects a healthy phenomenon. It can be a partial solution to the problem of size I have just mentioned. When there is not time to hear every voice, there is a good deal to be said for choirs. Most of our groups, moreover are not hard blocs. They are flexible and they are fortunately not exclusive. It is natural and fitting that like-minded countries should work together; but it is neither natural nor fitting when a group is forced to become so superficially at least united that it automatically votes as one, on even the most unimportant procedural issues: Fortunately for the work of our organization, there is only one such bloc -- and even here there have of late been hopeful signs of a restless intelligence at work. May the rest of us refuse to move backwards, because the only result of the ossification of blocs will be that the United Nations will grind to a stagnant halt; with the veto of the single state in the Security Council replaced by the veto of the voting bloc in the Assembly ?

Perhaps some will say, Mr. President, that this is today more than ever a Great Power world - a world of the super-powers - in which the freedom of action and influence of the lesser, the non-atomic powers is circumscribed as never before. While the greatest powers have the obligation to do what they can to see that the big issues are dealt with through the United Nations, and not only when it suits them, we of the smaller powers have the no less direct imperative to make it possible, by our actions and attitudes in the United Nations, for the great powers to have no excuse for bypassing it. If we lesser powers act with discretion and a recognition of our responsibilities, we are not powerless. If we do not, if we concern ourselves only with our own national, or group, or racial interests, then the United Nations will soon cease to be a place where the bigger powers co-operate with us and with themselves for any common purpose.

At this late stage in our General Debate, Mr. President, there are only two or three topics on which I should like to comment. The Chairman of my Delegation has already outlined the position of the Canadian Government on developments in the Middle East and in Hungary.

About the Middle East I wish only to state my belief that the success or failure of the experiment which we have set in motion here may well determine whether in our lifetime the influence of the United Nations will grow or wither. Nothing remains static for long. New challenges arise in new forms; and if we cannot meet the central challenge of organizing - as the distinguished Foreign Minister of Norway put it the other day - peace with justice through the United Nations, that attempt will be made outside the United Nations and with less and less regard for the common standard to which we have all subscribed in the Charter. It is my conviction,

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