

debate on South West Africa progresses. An important concern of my delegation will be the possibility of these proposals achieving their stated objectives.

The balance-sheet of our achievements is written each year in this debate. I have tried today (too long I am afraid, however) to show several areas of endeavour which demand particular attention if the United Nations is to develop into a potent force for peace in the world. But I suggest that our collective experience has revealed a number of useful lessons.

In the first place, it is clear that we must not allow great-power differences over certain admittedly very difficult issues to induce a fruitless passivity in the membership. We must continue to search for opportunities for initiatives which are both constructive and realistic.

Secondly, there is an evident need for the Assembly to re-establish the free process of debate and negotiation on draft resolutions. Only in this way can we hope to promote agreements that will attract the meaningful support of member governments when it comes to implementation.

Thirdly, we need to exercise greater respect for the rights of others under the Charter. This involves restraint by the great powers in the use of their privileges; restraint by the smaller powers in the observance of orderly procedures; restraint, above all, in the pursuit of national objectives where these are at variance with the purposes and principles of our constitution.

Finally, on the eve of the hundredth birthday of my country, the Government and people of Canada pledge their loyalty and their support to the conception of the United Nations and to the ideals it symbolizes and seeks to attain for the benefit of mankind.

The Secretary-General, the present incumbent, has the confidence of the Government and people of Canada. No man who has ever held this office, no man who has ever aspired to this office, has been so widely endorsed, as we know from events during the past few weeks. We all recognize, as we did three years ago, as the Security Council recognized three years ago, his great personal qualities. But added to this is the great authority which he has gathered in the last few weeks, an authority that we cannot dismiss, in the interest of this organization or in the interest of peace. This commanding authority could be of the greatest value in this critical time in human affairs.

I agree with what the Secretary-General said the other day about his conception of the role of the office of Secretary-General. This was the view, I well remember, of Sir Eric Drummond in the League of Nations, and of Mr. Avenol, who succeeded him; it was the view of Trygve Lie and of Dag Hammarskjöld; and it is what is implied and implicit in Articles 99 and 100 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Secretary-General—whoever occupies this post—must be one who, by personal quality and by capacity and by respect, has an authority far beyond his own person, and that exists today, clearly and demonstrably, in the person of U Thant.

I have the strong conviction (and I speak this way only because the foreign policy of my country is so embedded in this organization, and because I feel that in the immediate period this organization's future and integrity are involved) that U Thant's personal attributes and his undoubted global moral authority could be a powerful force in helping to win the war in Vietnam, moving us on to universality in this organization and, I think, to sure guarantees for peace in the world.