

The Palestine Problem

No summary of the political work of the United Nations in recent weeks, however brief, would be complete without mentioning the Security Council's consideration of the Palestine question. On November 24 it adopted a resolution strongly censuring an attack by the armed forces of Israel on a border village of Jordan. It also reaffirmed the obligation of the parties to abide by the terms of the armistice agreement and the Security Council resolutions, in order to progress peacefully toward a lasting settlement of that problem.

The year 1953 witnessed the resignation of the first Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Trygve Lie, and the appointment of his successor, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld. The task of creating, maintaining and preserving the traditions of an international public service in the climate of the critical post-war years has not been, and is not now, an easy one. The fact that our organization has come this far is a tribute to the leadership which has been given, and to the services rendered, by all who have worked faithfully in the service of the United Nations. From the new Secretary-General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, we have already come to expect, as I know we shall receive in the future, service of the highest order.

In speaking to the eighth session of the General Assembly the Secretary of State for External Affairs said:

"The United Nations can still draw on a tremendous fund of world-wide support. Despite the gulf which divides the world, despite the failure of some sections of opinion to recognize the fact of interdependence and the need for unity, despite the inadequacy of our own efforts in translating aspirations into reality, there is a growing world community--spanning continents, races, languages and faiths--which follows and supports efforts towards world co-operation. By the conscientiousness and clarity of thought we bring to the tasks ahead of us, by the extent to which we make the agenda items before the eighth session the sign-posts to practical and concerted action, to this extent the United Nations will merit the continuance of this support."

Mr. Speaker, judging by this standard, I think the eighth session has confirmed the view that is shared, I am convinced, by the overwhelming majority of Canadians that the United Nations must remain a cornerstone of our policy in the modern world.

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