

These words must, of course, be matched by specific and practical actions. Canada has undertaken an initiative in the International Civil Aviation Organization to support the structure of international law against terrorism. We are proposing that an agreement be drawn up that would commit all parties to prosecute or extradite those who commit acts of violence at international airports. I am confident of the full support of the international community for this initiative. I am equally optimistic that the common will of the United Nations, as expressed through such practical steps, will be decisive in our common struggle against this scourge of our times.

Mr. President,

I have touched upon only a few of the issues with which the UN will have to grapple in this and future sessions. As difficult as these are, I remain confident that this institution can serve our common needs and serve them well. We have only to give it the means and the direction. Canadians, for their part, wish to have a strong UN capable of dealing pragmatically and effectively with global issues. In this session the Canadian delegation will be seeking every opportunity to join with like-minded states in realizing that goal. If I have dwelt on the need for reform, it is because I am convinced that it is still within our grasp.

I can think of no better way to conclude, Mr. President, than by recalling the words of my distinguished Canadian predecessor, Lester Pearson. At the eighteenth session in 1963 he said, "... the United Nations alone serves us all. It provides the only world assembly to protect and advance human rights, freedoms, and welfare, to reduce and remove the causes of conflict. Whether it can discharge its great role and fulfill its great responsibilities, depends on us. When the United Nations fails, its member governments fail. When it succeeds, the people, the plain and good people of all the world, succeed."

Thank you, Mr. President.