

cultural or philosophic, are infinitely more important today than in the past. Moreover, there is no reason to believe that our quest for security must always lead us to outbid each other as far as armaments are concerned rather than agreeing to a mutual reduction of arms levels. Without an armament limitation agreement there can never be a fixed point at which one of the parties can feel assured of equality or of an advantage in armaments. Viewed only in terms of armaments, total security is a goal which always gets further away and which is always just out of reach. Humanity cries out to escape from this vicious circle.

[English]

Distinguished Members of Parliament, I have touched on only some of the more important problems facing the international community today. I am convinced that if these and other difficulties are to be tackled squarely, we must all concentrate more on what unites us as human beings than on the often transitory factors that pit nations as adversaries one against the other. Few nations know better than Canada the need to recognize fully and accommodate differing voices in a representative forum.

Such recognition is the secret of your success as a people. Success for the community of nations cannot be complete while so many of our fellow human beings languish in deprivation. Ultimately, we must all advance together, and I am convinced that the United Nations is by far and away the best vehicle for doing so. I am gratified indeed to find here in Canada such frank and fair recognition of these truths and I look forward to continued close co-operation with you as we proceed to our common goal.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Hon. Guy Charbonneau (Speaker of the Senate): Mr. Secretary-General, being aware of your reputation, I knew you would be sharing with us today some profound thoughts on the current problems of a divided world. As we sit upon a huge powder keg, the detonator of which could be activated from the four corners of the world, we find solace in the assurance that the Secretary-General of the organization whose mission is to unite all the nations on earth is endowed with such a positive understanding. As a matter of fact, you carry out your duties with the realism of an experienced politician and the generosity of a confirmed humanist.

As we commemorate this year the 100th anniversary of Victor Hugo's death, allow me to quote one of the biting comments for which this great man was deservedly famous and which reflects on the nearly superhuman dimension of your quest: "Universal peace is an hyperbola and the human race is following its asymptote". In other words, we are trying to bring together two parallel lines which could never meet.

In spite of this age-old evidence, you fervently persevere in your efforts to foster appeasement throughout the world,

efforts which we, as Canadians, both admire and support. In your achievements so far we find grounds for hope because, like us, you constantly proclaim the priority of right over force, of reason over blind passion, and of dialogue over violence.

Through your untiring and omnipresent action, you appear to us to have acquired a sense of ubiquity which is the distinct characteristic of a universal assembly. You must be everywhere at once because nations all over the world need a peacemaker.

[English]

When things go wrong, it is easy to join the chorus criticizing the United Nations. But we should never lose faith and throw our hands up in exasperation. You know as we in Canada know that the United Nations system can be no stronger than the collective will of its member states. We cannot treat the United Nations as a handy scapegoat.

It is not surprising that the United Nations is having more difficulty carrying out its responsibilities in the maintenance of peace and security. The drift toward political conflict and war between nations is never easy to reverse. You, Mr. Secretary-General, have continued to work assiduously in the centre of these conflicts in the highest traditions of your office. I need only note that where all others have failed to date, you have successfully chipped away at the inhuman edges of the war between Iran and Iraq. In Cyprus, you are bringing the leaders of the two Cypriot communities together to promote a settlement. You must not lose hope. You should draw your encouragement from quiet successes and the support of nations like Canada for the long road ahead.

We are honoured by your presence among us. Canadians support you in your vital work. We are proud of the contribution we shall continue to make in strengthening the United Nations so that it can rise to the new challenges. Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. John W. Bosley (Speaker of the House of Commons): Mr. Secretary-General, on behalf of the Hon. Members of this House of Commons and the people of Canada, I wish to thank you for sharing your thoughts with us so eloquently.

Twenty-one years ago, U Thant spoke in this Chamber and brought to Canadians a message that still rings with relevance and importance. He said to us that "for all its moral authority and good intentions, the United Nations, like any peaceful agent of order and justice, cannot be effective without some co-operation, some give and take, some effort to move forward, on the part of the peoples primarily concerned". Today, you gave us a message that will stay with Canadians for at least another 21 years.

[Translation]

We are compelled by your masterly review of the current global situation to seriously ponder over the problems faced by