



# PRESS RELEASE

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Statement by the Secretary of State  
for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson,  
on United Nations Day, Sunday, October 24, 1954.

Today, Sunday, October 24, 1954, is the ninth anniversary of the coming into force of the United Nations Charter. Nine years ago, fifty nations whose peoples had witnessed the appalling destruction wrought by the greatest war in history declared their intention of uniting their strength to maintain international peace and security and "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

Today the world is at peace, though it is a precarious and uneasy peace. The fact that local conflicts have not grown into world strife; that many potentially explosive problems have been brought within the framework of law or settlement and, in the process, have lost much of their destructive force, is due in large part to the existence of the United Nations. Even when special circumstances have led to the conduct of negotiations outside the formal framework of the United Nations, the solutions sought have been in the spirit of the Charter and have drawn strength from its affirmation of values which we hold to be enduring and of purposes the realization of which has become literally a matter of life or death.

At a time when mankind holds in its hands the instrument of its own total destruction, no sane man can ignore the awful dilemma in which we find ourselves, nor fail to realize that it is, in its essentials, a moral dilemma. We are called upon to conquer not ignorance, but knowledge; not impotence, but power, and to use our strength for the purposes for which God intended us to use it, for the preservation, not the destruction of mankind.

On this day when peoples all over the world are rededicating themselves to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the people of Canada. I am sure, will continue to hold fast to that vision of the future which was reflected nine years ago in the founding of our United Nations.

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