

exclusively or even primarily, to the Charter. These discords are, of course, at root political, not juridical; they are symptoms, not causes. Unfortunately, they are symptomatic of the rift between the two worlds - between the two great centres of political and material power. It would not be desirable, even if it were possible, to disguise or minimize this central fact, or to deny that the authority of the United Nations as a one world organization is threatened as it has not been threatened since the Charter came into force on October 24, 1945.

On the other hand, as jurists, we know that, given the will, the Charter can be made to work. We know that law and order do not exist "in the air"; they are of the earth, earthy. They must take root in the minds of men. We know that law, national or international, depends ultimately on the spirit of law-abidingness, and that the will for order, national or international, is necessary to the establishment and maintenance of order. We know also that the high purposes of the Charter - the peace, freedom and security of all - can best be promoted by a universal demand continuously and earnestly pressed by the peoples of the world and by their leaders.

Despite gathering clouds on the horizon, despite these early and angry disagreements, despite the shortcomings of the Charter to which I have alluded, we need not, and must not, be cynical or despairing.

After all, the Organization is youthful, the times are troubled, and the traditional rivalries of the great powers have not been entirely forgotten. We cannot expect too much too soon. The millenium is not at hand, nor is world-wide brotherly love just around the corner. Nevertheless, we have in the Charter an instrument which can become the foundation of an international order based upon justice, supported by law, and dedicated to the freedoms which have been so eloquently expressed in the Atlantic Charter. We may have to build slowly. There will be setbacks, frustrations, shortages of material and consequent delays. But nevertheless we may still be able to build well and surely.

I cannot bring myself to believe that any nation is bent upon war. Surely, in 1947, no one in his right mind believes that bloodshed and violence offer any solution to the difficulties which beset the world. Nor, I venture to suggest, need we stress always the matters which divide us, upon which disunity and discord thrive. There are, of course, fundamental differences of opinion on political, economic and ideological questions which we cannot ignore and which we will not soon resolve. There are, nevertheless, fundamentals which unite us all. Common humanity, at least, is universal and at this time there must also be, if not more positive bonds of union, at worst common fear that the existing means of destruction are so terrible and probably so accessible to all possible contenders for military supremacy that all of us might perish.

I am satisfied that Canadians generally will agree that we must do everything possible to strengthen the authority and prestige of the United Nations, its organs and its related agencies. Canada has devoted, and will continue to devote her energies and talents to this end. You and I will not live to see the United Nations celebrate (like the Law Society of Upper Canada) one hundred and fifty years of uninterrupted success. We must, nevertheless, do what we can to the end that such a celebration may ultimately become possible. In so doing, we can all of us, old and young alike, feel we are dedicating ourselves to generations yet unborn.

---

25/11/47.