

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 53/41

### UNITED NATIONS DAY

Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, used on United Nations Day C.B.C. Television Programme, October 24, 1953.

Today, on this eighth anniversary of the coming into force of the United Nations Charter, the whole world will be observing United Nations Day.

The tribute to the United Nations which will be paid in many different ways in many different parts of our own country reflects the deep conviction that what the United Nations does - or does not do - is of vital concern to Canada and to every Canadian, as it is to peoples everywhere.

Eight years ago at San Francisco, Canada was proud to share in the task of drafting the Charter which has been our guide in these critical post-war years. All of us who were there were deeply conscious of the responsibility we shared for drawing up this blueprint for future peace.

We have, however, in the long and hard years since the Charter was signed, learned that it is easier to produce a blueprint than to build the structure of peace. The U.N. has had failures and disappointments. But it has also had its achievements, political, economic, social and humanitarian. The achievements should hearten us, and the difficulties become a challenge which should spur us to greater effort in the cause of international co-operation for peace and progress.

Nothing that has happened since the days of San Francisco has altered, or can alter, the fact that the principles of the Charter remain valid today as guides to international action. There are many these days who are discouraged and downhearted about the United Nations. They should be discouraged instead about the state of the world in which the United Nations has to operate. One thing, however, we can say without qualification; that state would be worse if the United Nations were not there as a forum in which issues can be argued and solutions can be sought.

The main lesson which the world has to learn - and the time in which we have to learn it is short - is how to live with itself. This lesson can never be learned in a world of isolated national states where international anarchy reigns. It can be learned through co-operation for the maintenance of peace, for the common welfare, and for the defence of the rule of law, in the school of shared human and political experience which the United Nations provides.

So I know you will wish to join with me, on this United Nations Day, in pledging again our support for the principles and the purposes of the United Nations Charter, and the great cause of world peace which it is designed to serve.

s/c