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## Pearson Says U.N. Must Change or Die

By KATHLEEN TELTSCH

Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., May 25—Former Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson of Canada opened a conference on human survival here today with a call for drastic reforms in the United Nations.

Mr. Pearson declared that the United Nations, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, would not be around for the 50th anniversary unless richer nations adopted a new economic strategy of aid toward poorer countries.

With Secretary General Thant at his side, Mr. Pearson quoted the warning that Mr. Thant made a year ago: "The United Nations has 10 years to become effective or disappear."

The conference at which he spoke brought together promi-

nant persons from 16 countries in an attempt to draw on the ideas of a group not directly connected with the United Nations. Participants included scientists, political leaders, ecologists and economists. The conference, which will last four days, is sponsored by the Charles F. Kettering Foundation.

Mr. Thant said the idea was broached to him by Norman Cousins, editor of The Saturday Review, and that a number of diplomats and the Quaker office at the United Nations helped draw up the invitation list.

### He Urges U.N. Force

To encourage a free exchange of ideas, the formal opening session was followed by small, private meetings on environment, development and one on peace. Mr. Thant said he expected the participants would come up with a memorandum for him before their formal closing session Thursday.

Mr. Pearson specifically advocated reviving proposals for a United Nations military force to carry out Security Council orders in peace enforcement—proposals that became moribund during the Cold War and were quietly shelved 22 years ago.

He said that the improvement in Soviet-American relations justified a new attempt to establish such a military force, as provided under Article 43 of the United Nations Charter. Such a force was envisioned as being made up of contingents from the big powers. Mr. Pearson later explained that he was thinking in terms of the same composition but that he realized that it might not be feasible to start at once because of conditions in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

The Canadian won a Nobel Peace Prize for proposing the United Nations Emergency Force for the Middle East in 1956, a force that was quickly pulled together from small and middle powers and served for 10 years as a buffer between Egypt and Israel until President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt demanded its recall.

### 'Drowning in Its Own Words'

The Canadian statesman also suggested that a three-man task force might be asked to appraise the United Nations and recommend changes to improve its effectiveness. He complained that the General Assembly was "drowning in its own words and suffocating in its own documents" and that last year the United Nations held 6,400 meetings, compared with 2,700 in 1960.

Mr. Pearson observed that the United Nations had begun with inflated hopes that have given way to growing disillusionment. He objected that for want of something better, nuclear deterrent was the guarantee of peace. "Peace rests uneasily on hydrogen bombs," he said. "It is sad that the United Nations has found no better resting place for it."

He pointed to an increased trend in which the Soviet Union and the United States tend to use the United Nations for informal and private negotiations. He said that this practice could become more important in the immediate future.

Mr. Pearson and the Secretary General both singled out the population explosion as a priority concern deserving greater attention from the United Nations.

Mr. Thant, at another meeting later, remarked that the United Nations now was prepared to help countries establish population-control programs but that many countries were unaware that the new program was in full operation.

He spoke at a meeting of the advisory board of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, which received a pledge today of \$1-million from Britain and \$1.5-million from West Germany.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25 May 1970

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

From time to time, over the past five years, various Ambassadors at the United Nations and friends of the United Nations have suggested to me the need for additional measures to strengthen the understanding of peoples concerning the central role of the United Nations in meeting increasingly complex world problems. More particularly, it has been suggested that an attempt be made to foster a sense of participation by the peoples of the world in the activities of the United Nations in helping to make our planet safe and fit for man.

Against this background I am delighted to welcome the distinguished participants in this conference <sup>who are</sup> ~~of~~ concerned citizens from various parts of the world. The purpose of the Conference, which is sponsored by the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, will be to examine the human condition in a world which has become a single geographic community and in which the principal problems have to do with the survival and well-being of the human species itself. The meeting, known as "the Conference on Human Survival", is being arranged by the staff of the Quaker Office at the United Nations. It will consider man's ability to overcome limitations of background, boundaries, and ideology in protecting his habitat against war, misuse of resources, overcrowding, environmental poisoning, and economic disparity, among others.

The subjects that you have to consider are amongst the most important facing the world community today. They are also problems where international co-operation, through the United Nations, has an indispensable role to play. Consequent upon the revolution in science and technology, especially in the field of transport and communications, our planet has shrunk in size. Today we are all neighbours and, in the words of the Charter, we have "to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours".

This is not the right occasion for me to deal with our short-comings in dealing with the many important political problems facing us today. All I can say is that I am glad to note that at the same time the United Nations has made considerable progress in so many other areas which are on your agenda.

We are just becoming aware of the dimensions of the population problem and the seriousness with which efforts have to be mounted to alleviate its consequences. As you are aware I established a United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the administration of which I have entrusted to Mr. Paul Hoffman, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. I expect the resources available to this Fund to multiply steadily in the coming years, but even so, these resources are minimal considering the magnitude of the problem. What is heartening, however, is that today there is such a wide-spread understanding of the importance of this problem and the imperative need to meet its challenge.

Also on your agenda is the problem of the environment. To some extent I believe that this problem is compounded by the population problem. However, this is no reason for us to neglect the problem of the environment, or postpone an all-out effort to deal with its manifold aspects. In this

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country and elsewhere it is heartening to see that during recent months so much attention is being given to this question. I hope that the major <sup>international</sup> conference that we are planning to have on this subject in 1972 <sup>in Stockholm, Sweden,</sup> may help us in our efforts to deal with this problem effectively by concerted national and international action.

Later this year we hope to launch the Second Development Decade. I am one of those people who do not believe that the First Development Decade was a failure. I believe that in broad terms the targets that were set have been met although, of course, there are great and continuing disparities in performance amongst the developing countries themselves. If there was a failure, it was mainly due to the advanced countries which did not meet the expectations of the sponsors of the Development Decade, either in regard to trade or aid policies. This question has been the subject of considerable international attention during recent years, and a series of reports has appeared on this subject. Amongst these reports is a major work entitled "Partners in Development" which owes so much to the Chairman of the Commission appointed by the President of the World Bank to study this problem, the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson. It is hardly necessary for me to mention his many accomplishments, as President of the <sup>Session</sup> General Assembly, as a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and as Prime Minister of Canada. I believe that this conference is very fortunate to have him as its Chairman and I <sup>am confident</sup> hope that with such a distinguished leader to guide you in your efforts, and with such eminent participants from every walk of life, the success of this conference is assured.

## 5 ways proposed to better U.N.

By Darius S. Jhabvala  
Globe U.N. Bureau

UNITED NATIONS — UN Secretary General U Thant was asked last week to consider the creation of "a small advisory council or committee on the future" who would advise him on questions affecting the future of the world organization.

The suggestion was one of the few offered by a group of 19 scientists and experts of international political and economic affairs, including former General Assembly presidents Lester Pearson, Vijay-Alakshmi Pandit and Carlos P. Romulo.

For five days these elder

statesmen of the UN and others, gathered under the sponsorship of the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, discussed in private a variety of problems confronting the organization and what corrective measures should be taken.

Their interim report to Thant offered five recommendations. They are:

— The objective of balanced and progressive reduction of armaments should be confirmed and a timetable fixed for progress to achieve it;

—The UN charter should be reviewed to strengthen the organization's peacekeeping and peacekeeping capacities;

—All nations and peoples, including Red China, should be represented;

—Regional organizations should take over some of the economic and social development functions.

The participants stressed the need for world authority and that the failure to create or accept such authority "is manifest on many levels.

"It is manifest in the limitations of the World Court . . . in the unproductive effort to halt the

menacing spiral of the arms race . . . in the absence of a UN role to end the war in Vietnam . . . in the inability of the UN to carry out a peaceful settlement in the Middle East . . . and in the international traffic in arms," they declared.

"If the human race is to survive, the human interest must be placed above the national interest. The natural and essential agency for advancing the human interest is the United Nations," they concluded.