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Speech presenting cheque to United Nations Association

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR DUNSTAN, PRESENTING CHEQUE TO
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION. 25.10.73

YOUR EXCELLENCY, DR BRAY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

WELL YOU DON'T LOOK COMMUNIST DOMINATED TO ME. BUT THEN I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT JOHN McLEAY CAPABLE OF THINKING THE R.S.P.C.A. SUBVERSIVE.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS, IN FACT, DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO HAND OVER THIS CHEQUE TODAY FOR THE GRANT OF \$1,500 VOTED BY PARLIAMENT TO FURTHER YOUR WORK IN PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE OF THE U.N.

MR McLEAY IS, OF COURSE, JUST THE LATEST OF A LONG LINE OF KNOCKERS OF THE U.N. IT'S A VERY EASY THING TO DO. SUPERPOWER REALPOLITIK HAS OFTEN MEANT THAT THE WORLD POWER IS SO CONSTRAINED IN A MAJOR CONFLICT AS TO BE VIRTUALLY IMPOTENT.

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BUT THAT IS TO OVERLOOK THE CRUCIAL ROLE IN PEACEKEEPING IN THE CONGO AND CYPRUS, IT IS TO IGNORE THE WORK OF TRYGVE LIE, DAG HAMMARSKJOLD AND U. THANT AND IT IS TO DISMISS THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF AGENCIES SUCH AS THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION, F.A.O., UNICEF AND UNESCO.

TRUE IT IS IMPERFECT. WE LIVE IN AN IMPERFECT WORLD. BUT IT WOULD BE WORTH KEEPING AS AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM AND DIPLOMATIC CLEARING HOUSE ALONE, PUTTING ASIDE THE IMMENSELY VALUABLE WORK OF THE AGENCIES IN PROMOTING HUMAN WELFARE. THE SHOCK OF TWO WORLD WARS AND THE HOPES OF MANKIND WHICH LED TO THE FOUNDING OF THE U.N. ARE EXPRESSED IN THE PREAMBLE TO THE CHARTER:

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"WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED TO SAVE SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS FROM THE SCOURGE OF WAR.. TO REAFFIRM FAITH IN FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, IN THE DIGNITY AND WORTH OF THE HUMAN PERSON, IN THE EQUAL RIGHTS OF MEN AND WOMEN AND OF NATIONS LARGE AND SMALL..TO PROMOTE SOCIAL PROGRESS AND BETTER STANDARDS OF LIFE IN LARGER FREEDOM."

THEY ARE NOBLE IDEALS. THEY MAY BE UNATTAINABLE. BUT THE NEED TODAY, JUST AS IT WAS ON JUNE 26; 1945, WHEN THE CHARTER WAS SIGNED, IS SUPPORT THE U.N. AND TO SEEK WAYS OF STRENGTHENING IT.

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PEOPLE WILL BE MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT THE IDEALS OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION IF THEY KNOW ABOUT IT AND ITS AGENCIES. THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION HERE DOES AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT - ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS - TO SEE THAT SOUTH AUSTRALIANS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF SCHOOL AGE ARE PROPERLY INFORMED. THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS MOST HAPPY TO SUPPORT THIS WORK AND, IN DOING SO, THE U.N. ITSELF.

THANK YOU.