

are defining; a process of definition which involves major adjustments by the older nations of the world. It is indeed this inter-action and the very interdependence of the modern world that makes the UN essential to us all.

For all the people in developing countries who benefit by the UN's many assistance programmes, the United Nations is however, much more than a forum for multilateral diplomacy. Rather, it is cherished as a symbol of hope for a better life in the near future. At no time has its role been more central than at this point in the evolution of the world economic order. In facilitating this evolution, one of the greatest strengths of the United Nations, of course, lies in the major contributions of the Specialized Agencies to international co-operation and development.

A major, but perhaps insufficiently appreciated contribution of the United Nations to a stable and equitable world order has been the progress made in the development of International Law. New and flexible techniques have been developed within the United Nations framework which supplement and accelerate the customary law-making process. The United Nations thus plays a vital role in the negotiation of law-making treaties, laying down binding legal obligations in many fields of human activities, often reflecting new concepts responding to contemporary imperatives, as in the case of the law of the sea. Principles of international law are thus developed, crystallized and accepted in a remarkably short space of time through the law-making activities of the United Nations.

On the occasion of United Nations Day, 1975, Mr. Secretary-General, it gives the Government and people of Canada great pleasure to recall with pride the role Canada has been able to play in the affairs of the United Nations - in the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, in peacekeeping operations, in the Specialized Agencies and in the global conferences that grapple with the problems affecting the very survival of mankind.

I am pleased, therefore, at the beginning of the United Nations fourth decade to reaffirm Canada's dedication to the ideals and principles expressed in the Charter and Canada's support for the world Organization in its efforts to embody those principles in action.

Yours sincerely,

Allan J. MacEachen