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UN must intensify efforts to help solve global issues, 1

Refugee totals increased, 2

Canada and Saudi Arabia sign pact, 3

University group gets funds, 3

New Cabinet ministers named, 4

Winter employment program, 4

Firms gear up for fibre optics, 4

Study on child abuse, 4

Canada celebrates Oktoberfest, 5

Towards Chinese markets, 6

Bacteria works on waste, 6

Naval nostalgia, 6

Chips improve telephone system, 6

Spinal surgery advance, 6

News of the arts — exhibit, 7

News briefs, 8

UN must intensify efforts to help solve global issues

The United Nations is obliged to find ways to deal with world problems within the limits of a stringent environment and to redouble its efforts with discipline and dedication, so that it can direct its attention to areas where it is most needed, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan said in an address to the thirty-sixth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, September 21.

Mr. MacGuigan, who met with Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and participated in a meeting of the Parliamentarians for World Order while in New York, spoke to the general assembly on Canada's efforts in areas such as law of the sea, peace-keeping, human rights and North-South relations.

Self-determination supported

In his address, Mr. MacGuigan made note of the situations in Afghanistan and Kampuchea and called for measures that would ensure the self-determination of the people in both these countries. The min-

ister called for the government of the Soviet Union to "honour...the ideals of international conduct" and to "respond positively to international efforts, including re-establishing a truly independent and non-aligned government in Afghanistan — a government which can reflect without outside interference the real will of the Afghan people".

Mr. MacGuigan also expressed Canada's support for the proposals made at the international conference on Kampuchea and urged UN member states "to take this opportunity to settle this tragic situation and to promote a lasting and durable peace in Southeast Asia". He also reiterated Canada's support for the independence of Namibia and noted that Canada had been active "particularly in the contact group and with African states, in pursuing this goal".

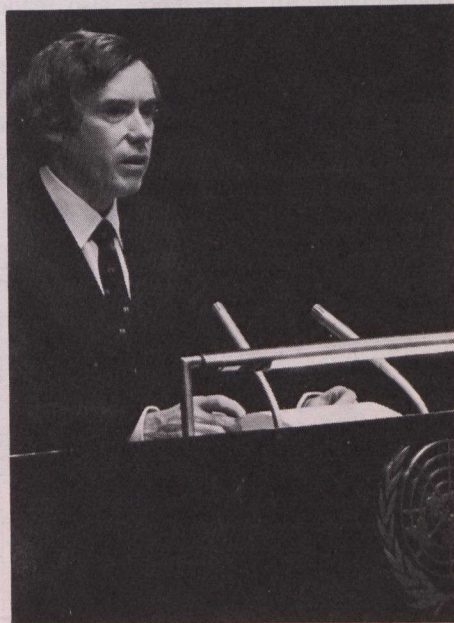
The minister also made mention of Canada's participation in United Nations peace-keeping efforts in Cyprus. He said the forces are "accomplishing an important role, encouraging us to believe in the notion of collective security through recourse to negotiation instead of conflict in the context of accepted principles of law".

On the subject of the law of the sea, the Canadian External Affairs minister said he thought it ranked in "importance with the San Francisco founding of the UN itself" and that it had "significant implications for peaceful East-West relations".

"It touches on the interests of every state great or small, rich or poor, coastal or landlocked. The achievement of a universal agreement on a Law of the Sea Convention is fundamental to world peace and security," said Mr. MacGuigan.

Disarmament a priority

The Canadian government recently reaffirmed the strategy of suffocation contained in the document of the first special session on disarmament, the minister told the assembly. He said that Canada's



Secretary of State for External Affairs
Mark MacGuigan addresses UNGA.

Late news

The Supreme Court of Canada handed down, on September 28, its decision on the federal government's proposed amendments to the Canadian Constitution. The court held (by a vote of 7 to 2) that the consent of the Canadian provinces is not legally required for the enactment of the amendment but (by a vote of 6 to 3) that provincial consent is, by convention, an essential ingredient for any constitutional change affecting the rights and powers of the provinces. The next issue of *Canada Weekly* will carry further details on the Supreme Court's decision.



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