



# Statements and Speeches

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## CHANNELLING THE WINDS OF CHANGE INTO COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENT

An Address by the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Thirty-Fifth Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, September 22, 1980

During the Special Session of the Assembly on economic co-operation, I had the honour of appearing here twice to address the Session. Different evaluations will be made of the results of the Session but none of them will term the exercise a full success. The world's economic problems, however, remain starkly visible: hundreds of millions of lives wasting in poverty; the development goals of many developing nations knocked askew by soaring bills for essential imports; recession in the industrialized world. Solutions are not easily available. The issues are complex. Quite clearly, approaches vary. In many respects, the Special Session's difficulties in reaching agreement reflect the difficulties inherent in the world's economic problems. However, I urge all nations to look towards productive compromise on the negotiating issues so that the process of trying together to deal with the problems can go forward. This General Assembly provides that opportunity.

Meanwhile, governments need to look hard at their own efforts to contribute to economic redressment. As announced to the closing meeting of the Special Session, Canada will, for the rest of the decade, be increasing its aid program. We are also studying other areas where our contribution to development can be improved.

Mr. President, the world which this Assembly reflects is one buffeted by change.

Both a dynamic of development and an irresistible force, change is obviously, in many circumstances, a mixed blessing.

It can be volatile, destabilizing. Northern and Southern methods and cultures meet and sometimes clash. Accelerated aspirations are often frustrated. People fear change: they may reject it, often after breakdowns occur, or suppress its social and political expression, which can be an invitation to revolution.

But change will go on and must go on. We must, whenever possible, make both technological change and social change acts of progress. The task of our world organization is to prompt and channel change into positive and predictable directions. The end lesson, as far as the work of the General Assembly is concerned, is that economic development and the orderly adaptation to its dynamic of change are basic ingredients of peace and security.

For example, I say again that there cannot be authentic or enduring security in the world as long as there is widespread global poverty and economic injustice. Increasingly, we recognize the economic interdependence of the nations of the world. This reflects both an economic fact, and a method of approaching issues. Our interde-

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