
Canada calls for changes at UN

The United Nations General Assembly must break away from the patterns of the past, adapt to change and improve its collective machinery, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan said in an address to the thirty-fifth regular session of the Assembly in New York, September 22.

Dr. MacGuigan said that world events indicate there is a need to abandon prevailing methods and to resolve conflicts through collectively-developed machinery rather than by reverting to force. The United Nations needs to "break away from old patterns of approach and attitude", he said.

With reference to the North-South dialogue, the Minister said that the UN must "recognize its global responsibilities but resist the notion that every problem must have a global, generalized solution". There are issues, he said, such as the Law of the Sea, where bloc-to-bloc negotiations would be less useful.

Law of the Sea

A complicated array of different country groupings arranged to correspond to differing economic, political and even geographic interests have wrestled with long-standing questions of principle and traditions regarding the Law of the Sea, said Dr. MacGuigan. "This method has enabled them to draft, in effect, a new constitu-



Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan (left) meets with Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Huang Hua while at the United Nations.

tion for two-thirds of the world's surface in the more pragmatic, realistic, and I believe productive way, which a pluralistic approach can afford," he said.

However, it is necessary for parties interested in the Law of the Sea treaty to come to some consensus on the vital question of seabed mining, the Minister added. Dr. MacGuigan said that the treaty might be compromised if the "interests of the land-based mineral producers, including Canada and many developing countries are ignored or overridden by the desire of some states to secure unrestricted access to the mineral riches of the seabed". The problem could only be compounded, he said, "by states stepping outside of the internationally agreed framework to play the game by their own set of rules".

In order to bridge the gap between producing and consuming countries and find a common basis of agreement on this issue, Canada has joined a number of developing countries in initiating an independent UN study to determine the

impact of the seabed production formula proposed by the major mineral-consuming states. Dr. MacGuigan said that he hoped the study would encourage a "fresh look" at the question.

Disarmament

The Canadian government attaches special significance to disarmament, the Minister told the Assembly. He said he regretted the "lack of specific and ratified agreements on further measures of arms controls and disarmament". Canada is committed to "breaking the pattern of madness which spiralling rearmament represents", said Dr. MacGuigan.

Canada's recently-appointed special ambassador for disarmament will be working during the current UN session to restrain and cut back the competition in strategic nuclear weapons, he said. As a first step, Dr. MacGuigan said the Canadian government would vigorously pursue the cessation of the production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons.

Unique wool treatment sparks world interest

A Canadian company with federal government assistance has improved the anti-shrinking process used by wool manufacturers.

Wool provides a unique warmth and comfort which cotton and linen fabrics do not have, but its special properties also cause wool fabrics to mat and shrink, particularly in clothing that is laundered repeatedly. Although Kroy Unshrinkable Wools Limited has had a shrink-proofing process which has been used continuously in Canada for over 30 years (and to a lesser extent in the United States for approximately the same length of time), the company had been aware that the treatment was not completely uniform — some of the fibres seemed to be treated satisfactorily, while others were not.

The presence of these two differently treated wool fibres restricted the use of the process and the washability claims that could be made, particularly in 100 percent wool garments. It was evident that in order to expand the use of the process, especially outside Canada, refinements were necessary.

Kroy's Vice-President and General Manager Norman Cruickshank, brought his problem to the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program. Under the terms of an IRAP

agreement, NRC provides financial assistance by paying the salaries of the company research staff working on approved projects. The company pays for all other aspects of the research costs and retains all titles and rights to the results of the jointly-funded research. The Kroy project was approved in September 1966 and work, which began two months later, was to continue for the next seven years with IRAP financial support.

Uneven wetting a problem

During the study it became apparent that the basic problem was one of uneven wetting of the wool fibres by the treatment liquors. Up to this time, the wool was treated in a long horizontal bath, fed with a cold acidified sodium hypochlorite solution containing wetting agents, where it was subjected to numerous squeeze rolls and mechanical agitators which were designed to promote uniform wetting of the fibres with liquor.

The individual wool fibres had to be exposed to a solution containing a certain concentration of chlorine, at a specific pH, for a certain length of time.

During the course of the project, it was determined that in order to obtain uniform treatment the air within and surrounding the wool fibres had to be first