

The United Nations is forty years old in 1985 and young Canadians, during this International Youth Year, are invited to take the lead in reaffirming the values and importance of the UN. This brochure gives some ideas for that celebration, suggesting activities to centre around United Nations Day on October 24th.

## **BACKGROUND**

Formed as World War II drew to a close, the UN provides a mechanism for nations to work out solutions to international problems without resort to conflict and to promote global cooperation across the spectrum of human endeavour.

After forty years, it is clear that the common interest in peace tends to assert itself only after problems have reached the point of crisis, when bilateral or unilateral efforts to resolve them have usually proven inadequate. But the past forty years also attest to the UN's contribution to bettering the human condition by limiting conflicts through peacekeeping, by assistance to developing countries and by fostering international cooperation in health, education, science, technology and communications.

The UN is more vital than ever to maintaining peace and stability in today's increasingly complex world. So let's rally round it and, as John Lennon said, "give peace a chance." And let's use the anniversary as an opportunity to look at where the United Nations stands now and how Canadian youth can do their part to help give it a new lease on life.

## **THE FIRST STEPS**

The Department of External Affairs, in cooperation with the United Nations Association in Canada, has put together some ideas and support materials to assist youth in marking this fortieth anniversary. So why not look at the following suggestions when thinking about your part in the celebration?