

I have advised the Secretary-General of the United Nations that Canada does not wish to proceed with the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders this year. I have sought the Secretary-General's cooperation in obtaining a postponement of the Congress and he has undertaken to study the situation in order to clarify his position. In the Government's view, this Congress cannot be held successfully anywhere this year.

Honourable Members will recall that at the Fourth Congress held in Kyoto, in 1970, the Government of Canada, in consultation with the Province of Ontario, proposed that the venue of the next congress be Toronto, in September of 1975. This proposal was accepted by delegations and subsequently confirmed by the General Assembly. Since that time, however, there has been a steady deterioration of the atmosphere in which international conferences are held. I need hardly mention the discord which marred the Sixth Special Session and the last regular Session of the General Assembly, the recent conferences of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and of the International Labour Organization (ILO) as well as the International Women's Year Conference in Mexico, a few weeks ago.