



Statements and Speeches

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TWO URGENT UN PROBLEMS: PEACE-KEEPING AND THE CONTROL OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

A speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, at the Twenty-ninth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, September 25, 1974.

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The presence among us for the first time of the delegations from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Grenada and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, following the accession of these three states to membership, is evidence of the continued march of this world organization toward universality. Canada was a co-sponsor of each of the three resolutions supporting their membership and we are confident that each of these countries will make a distinctive contribution to our work at this session and in the future.

We have been deeply moved by the tragic aftermath of the hurricane which has devastated Honduras and surrounding regions. We have heard this morning from the Foreign Minister an appeal for international assistance. In this connection Canada has decided this morning to allocate \$525,000 for emergency relief efforts in areas affected by this natural disaster.

Some of the major political problems that faced the United Nations during its early years have now receded, and no longer figure so prominently in its deliberations. In particular, the cold war is giving way to growing co-operation and *détente*.

The last two decades have witnessed the resolute progress of peoples under colonial rule towards self-determination and independence. The past few months have seen particularly encouraging developments in the African territories that have been, or remain, under Portuguese administration. Guinea-Bissau has now attained its independence and negotiations to this end are under way with regard to Mozambique and Angola. It is a matter of satisfaction to all supporters of the United Nations that Portugal has agreed to work with the appropriate UN bodies in the process of decolonization. We in Canada welcome these developments, and offer our encouragement to the Portuguese and African peoples concerned in their search for early equitable and peaceful solutions to remaining problems.