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Current issues in Canadian foreign policy

In a statement to the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence on March 8, Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson covered various issues of Canada's foreign policy in which his department and others had been engaged last year and which, he said, would "test our talents and resources during the coming year". Passages from Mr. Jamieson's notes follow:

* * * *

Canada strongly supports all positive efforts towards reconciliation and lasting peace in the Middle East. We have welcomed the Camp David accords and the negotiating process resulting from them, and we have encouraged Israel's Arab neighbours to join this process. We have cautioned against disillusionment because an Israeli-Egyptian treaty was not signed within three months. After so many years of hostility it is not surprising that the resolution of differences should prove difficult. As President Carter visits the Middle East in the pursuit of peace, I applaud his statesmanship and that of the leaders of Egypt and Israel.

Recent events in Iran have had a serious destabilizing effect on the region. Canada's concern has been to protect its citizens and to seek to develop effective working relations with the new Government which Canada recognized on February 16.

Peace-keeping and peace-making

Against the background of the frequently recurring resort to force in the world, we continue to promote the achievement of peaceful solutions through the United Nations. Canada remains the major troop contributor to on-going peace-keeping operations. The situation in each of the peace-keeping operational areas was relatively quiet in 1978, with the spasmodic exception of Lebanon in which Canadian forces were for a time engaged. Canada's experience on the Security Council in 1977 and 1978 convinced us that the Security Council and the General Assembly need to become more actively involved in promoting solutions and solving the political problems underlying various conflicts. Our membership in the Group

of Five dealing with Namibia and the joint Canada/U.S.A./U.K. initiative of late 1978 designed to facilitate the resumption of intercommunal negotiations in Cyprus are imaginative examples of how Canada is attempting to encourage the UN to move in this direction. In Cyprus, for example, the UN Secretary General is building on the tripartite initiative in an effort to get negotiations under way. In visits to Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, I discussed the dimensions of the problem and the prospects for a solution.

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International development

Canada is committed to an active, effective and humane program of development cooperation with the disadvantaged countries and peoples of the world. Despite the imperatives of the Government's expenditure reduction program, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) expects to spend approximately \$1 billion for Canada's aid program in 1979-80, an increase of approximately \$100 million compared with CIDA's forecast expenditures for 1978-1979. While this rate of growth is less than originally planned, CIDA's global program has not been cut and its expenditures will increase in the coming year. In addition, continued attention is being paid to ways and means of sharpening the focus and improving the quality and management of Canada's development assistance program.

East-West relations

While the relaxation of tensions in Europe is still regarded as a desirable goal by both East and West and the situation in Europe remains stable, conflicts in other areas

Fifty-eight years ago March 26...

The *Bluenose* schooner, built almost entirely of Nova Scotian materials, was launched at Lunenburg. From 1921 to 1938 the ship successfully defended the Halifax *Herald* International Fisherman's Trophy. A design of the ship appears on the Canadian ten-cent coin.

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