



satisfaction that the first woman appointed is an outstanding Canadian, Madame Thérèse Paquet-Sévigny, Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Public Information.

There have been other accomplishments in this past year — the successful Vienna Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking; the coming into force of the Convention Against Torture; the International Maritime Organization Draft Convention on Maritime Security; and the progress on verification at the UN Disarmament Commission with which Canada is proud to be associated. They are proof of the worth and vitality of this United Nations, and clear evidence of the benefits to be derived by continuing to confront the world's problems together.

The great purpose of the United Nations is to extend the reach of peace and justice in the world. Sometimes, as in the war between Iran and Iraq, its role becomes most acute when all other efforts have failed. In other cases, it can encourage regional initiatives that may lead to peace where peace is threatened, or focus international attention upon injustice that must end. I want to speak today of one initiative we must encourage, and one injustice we must end.

The initiative is in Central America, where the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua have joined together in a genuine effort by all parties to settle their differences peacefully. The surprisingly positive outcome of the Guatemala Summit was the result of many factors. They include the foundations laid by Contadora and the Contadora Support Groups; the preparatory work of the Central American countries; and the concessions made at the Summit by each of the five presidents. That achievement was applauded by us all. But it was only the first of many steps along a difficult road.

Canadian aid to the region has been steadily increasing, as has our funding and acceptance of refugees. We have expressed our view that the root problem in Central America is poverty,

not ideology; that the real need is development assistance, not military activity; and that intervention by outside powers will only aggravate the tensions. We have supported the Contadora process, and have made available to Contadora the expertise Canadians have acquired in the techniques of peacekeeping.

...Canada supports the initiatives of the Central American presidents. We are prepared to provide our expertise mechanisms which, once peace is possible, can help it endure. The disputes must be resolved by those actually involved in the conflict, but Canada is prepared to contribute to that process in any direct and practical way open to us.

Mr. President, the injustice which I referred to earlier and which I now want to address is apartheid. Canada's position is clear and on the record. We have acted upon all of the sanctions recommended by the Nassau Conference of the Commonwealth Heads of Government. We have imposed a ban both on new investment in South Africa and reinvestment of profits. We have banned the promotion of tourism and ended air links. We have banned the importation of coal, iron and steel. Furthermore we have made it clear that, if other measures fail, we are prepared to end our economic and diplomatic relations with South Africa. We are helping the victims of apartheid, with scholarships, legal aid, and other assistance. We contribute substantially to the development of the Front Line states, both bilaterally and through the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. We apply our influence, wherever it is effective, to build the pressures against apartheid.

...The Prime Minister of Canada met with the leaders of Zimbabwe and Zambia and Botswana in Victoria Falls in February, and I visited Southern Africa six weeks ago, a visit which included a meeting in Pretoria with the South African Foreign Minister. Oliver Tambo visited Ottawa a month ago and met with our Prime Minister and other Canadian leaders. In early September it was our honour to host the second Summit of La Francophonie, in Quebec City, and

next month, in Vancouver, we host the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth, the international family to which South Africa once belonged.

...It is Canada's view that the sanctions imposed upon South Africa have been effective. Specifically, in the first six months of 1987, Canada reduced its imports from South Africa by 51 per cent. But the impact is not only economic, it is also psychological. While the government of South Africa has reacted by limiting liberty even more, growing numbers of individual South Africans have reached out for reform, in meetings in Lusaka and Dakar, and in the private contacts we must multiply.

...The instability in Southern Africa is both an ally and a product of apartheid. One of the most wrenching conversations I have had was with Canadian aid workers in Mozambique, who fear that the projects they build to help people will become targets of terrorists, and put at risk the very lives they are working to improve. An essential part of the challenge in Southern Africa is thus to bring more stability to the Front Line states.

...Mr. President, I began by talking about the atmosphere of crisis which was so pervasive as we met last year. Today, we must all surely take satisfaction from the atmosphere of hope that surrounds us. Hope, because both globally and regionally there is recognition that a peaceful and secure world is of universal benefit and worthy of relentless pursuit. Hope, because the social and economic evils that beset us are being addressed in a meaningful way. And, finally, hope because this organization of ours, the United Nations, is reasserting its capacity to play the central role it was designed to play, in dealing with the ills that still plague the international community. The UN agenda stretches before us: Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Cyprus, peace in the Middle East between Israel and the Arab states, an end to terrorism, and the relentless human struggle to eradicate hunger and injustice. Somehow, Mr. President, it feels as though we are closer this year than last to tackling that agenda."