

bean exports), the development of a sourcing directory of export and manufacturing capacity in order to assist regional exports to Canada, the establishment of new scholarships for Caribbean students, and the signing of new air agreements with several Caribbean nations.

GATT

New MTN Round

International Trade Minister James Kelleher welcomed the announcement of preparations for a new round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) by GATT as a "timely development" in [Canada's] efforts to fight back protectionist pressures threatening Canadian exports." The GATT decision to commence official preparations followed the Special Session held in Geneva in early October, where GATT members agreed to the establishment of a group of senior officials to report later in the year. The group, in its examination of the "subject matter and modalities" of the proposed negotiations, would concentrate on continued GATT responsiveness to the changing trade environment. Canada had announced its "full engagement" in promoting and preparing a new MTN round, and in its statement to the session had emphasized the importance of a "liberal trading system, based on agreed and transparent rules" for world economic growth. Canada called for timeliness and credibility in any new round, adding that only a broadly-based agenda could "reflect the legitimate interests of all countries." Rather than relying on a "static, narrow and legalistic" view of the GATT trading framework, the contracting parties should direct their attention to the reforming and updating of existing rules to take into account the changed trade patterns of the 1980s (External Affairs communiqué, October 4).

UN

Fortieth Anniversary

Marking the occasion of the United Nation's fortieth anniversary in October, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark issued a message of congratulation to UN Secretary General Pérez de Cuéllar. The Minister reiterated previous calls made by Canada for a strengthening of the UN and its agencies. Citing the Secretary General's own initiative as an effective effort towards this end, Mr. Clark emphasized the importance of a recommitment to the principles of the UN Charter by all member nations. Successful revitalization, however, required "sustained recognition" of the UN's significance in light of "continuing challenges" to the international community. Canada maintained that only united

effort would strengthen the UN, through a "refocusing" of the UN's political mandate in its political organs," improvements in management, and a "rationalizing" of both the Security Council and the General Assembly. Mr. Clark added that the anniversary was a particularly opportune time to familiarize the public with the UN and its operations (External Affairs communiqué, October 24).

The Canadian pledge of loyalty and support for the UN was renewed by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney October 23 in his address to the General Assembly during its commemorative session. In his statement, Mr. Mulroney spoke of those issues of vital concern to member governments — the elimination of apartheid in South Africa, the urgency of achieving a measure of progress in superpower arms control reductions, the necessity for moving toward a new MTN round, and the problem of developing an effective response to international terrorism. While acknowledging the UN's imperfections, the Prime Minister stated the present cycle of "force and fear, of injustice and violence" was caused rather by "self-centered nationalism" and the failures of member states. The existence of the UN, he added, since it was "threatened every day," should be both celebrated and "protected" every day (UN Canadian delegation, October 23, *Globe and Mail*, October 24).

UNESCO Participation

Further calls for the reform of UNESCO were made by Canada during this two-month period. (Two member nations had already decided against further participation — the US and Great Britain.) External Relations Minister Monique Vézina, in a speech delivered to the UNESCO General Conference October 21, outlined Canadian concerns over the continuation of the reform movement within the organization to improve both operations and programs — reform which could prove essential for the very existence of the UN itself as a viable international forum. While Canada remained committed to the ideals and mandate of UNESCO, further efforts on the organization's part were required to improve public perception. With this objective, UNESCO should "eschew sterile ideological controversy," exercise financial discipline and restraint, reduce the bureaucracy, increase its concentration on the "core areas" of UNESCO's competence, and compress its programs to match its reduced financial circumstances (following the withdrawal of member states) (External Relations statement, October 21).

On November 18, the Minister reassured the Commons that Canada would not "abandon" UNESCO, but would continue to work for reform from "within." Ms. Vézina pointed to the progress already made by UNESCO to "compress" its programs. Canada supported further efforts to "rigorously define its objectives and priorities," reduce "political rhetoric," and "weed out less crucial programs" (External Relations statement, November 18, *Globe and Mail*, November 19). Canada remained confident, added the Minister, that UNESCO would proceed with the reforms already initiated.