

Mr. President,

I take great pleasure in joining distinguished speakers who have preceded me in congratulating you, Sir, on election to your high office. My delegation is confident that under your wise guidance this twenty-ninth General Assembly will create the climate necessary to deal with the new world outlook so many speakers have foreseen during this general debate.

We are particularly aware of the leading role of your country in the non-aligned movement. Indeed, the initiative which Algeria took in calling for a special convocation of this Assembly earlier this year will be of signal importance to the work of this organization in the months and years ahead. The aims of the non-aligned countries as enunciated by President Boumediene in this chamber, merit recollection as we commence our work - the emancipation of all peoples in a context of international cooperation based on the equality of states, the respect for national sovereignty, and the establishment of a just peace throughout the world. These are ideals to which we can all readily subscribe.

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 which 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 cooperation 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 which have been, or remain under, Portuguese administration. Guinea-Bissau has now attained its independence and negotiations to this end are underway 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 U.N. 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.