



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW:** "In this complex, interdependent world of the Twentieth Century, lasting peace can only be achieved in the context of law and its realization must therefore depend to a great extent on the increased willingness of states to accept and to apply the principles of international law in their dealings with one another," said the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, in addressing the Fall Convocation of the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, on October 22.

"Surely this concept of peace through law is not impractical or visionary," he added. "In modern civilized states the conviction that a lawful order is essential to their internal government has been long established. Should we not recognize that the same morality and respect for law is equally necessary in inter-state relations?"

He remarked near the outset of his address: "It has been my privilege to serve from time to time on Canadian Delegations to the United Nations and some of its associated bodies, most recently, during the past few weeks, at the Ninth Session of the General Assembly. I have therefore had an opportunity to view at first hand the interplay between the slow, but I think inevitable, development of the rule of law in international relations and the attempt

on the part of some states to make international law subservient to their political aims."

Mr. Martin, who spoke during the previous week for the Canadian Government at the United Nations General Assembly in the disarmament debate, touched on those discussions as follows:

"The current debate in the United Nations on disarmament, from which I have just come and to which on Monday I will return, has made it crystal clear that the gap which still divides us from the Government of the Soviet Union, on the nature and scope of an acceptable disarmament program, remains deep and wide. In a few particulars that gap has been narrowed. That is heartening. But facile optimism, or wishful irresponsibility, could be a grave disservice to the cause of peace. So too, I think, would be cynicism or despair at the admittedly great and vital points on which major differences remain."

On his main subject, the rule of international law, he said, in part:

"The truth surely is that international law is not just a subject for books but is a system that is practised - though imperfectly - and will continue to be improved and extended, for it is the only means of marking out the sphere within which each state may exercise