

CANADA SEEKS SEAT ON SECURITY COUNCIL

Canadians possess an international outlook; theirs is a multicultural society shaped by international events and influences. Therefore, multilateral diplomacy is both an instinct and a vocation for them, and they expect their Government to play an active and positive multilateral role.

This expectation has been met, for Canada maintains ties with a wide variety of states both bilaterally and through its membership in key multilateral organizations. Canada is the only member of the United Nations that combines membership in the Commonwealth, la Francophonie and the Economic Summit Seven, and it places great value on its association with other multilateral groups such as ASEAN.

Canada's "constructive internationalism", demonstrated through a deep and abiding commitment to the United Nations and the multilateral system, represents a cornerstone of its foreign policy. As an expression of this commitment, Canada has announced its candidature for a seat on the United Nations Security Council for the two-year term 1989-1990.

Canada has sought membership on the United Nations Security Council once a decade since the institution was founded. Its strong support for the United Nations has been evident since the beginning, as illustrated by its delegation to the San Francisco Conference in 1945, where the United Nations charter was drafted. Headed by the then Prime Minister, MacKenzie King, the Canadian delegation includ-

ed two future Prime Ministers: Louis St Laurent and Lester B. Pearson.

Over the years, Canadian leadership in UN peacekeeping operations, disarmament and arms control initiatives, humanitarian relief efforts, human rights and environmental issues has been noteworthy. Its record in providing innovative ideas, personnel and funds both to the UN itself and its specialized agencies has been exemplary. Canada is currently the seventh-largest contributor on a per capita basis to the United Nations system, and the fourth-largest in absolute terms.

In recent years, critics have increasingly pointed to the shortcomings of the United Nations. Faced with financial crises and questions about confidence in the organization, Canadians have held fast and defended the UN's positive record of contributions.

While not oblivious to these problems and shortcomings, Canada has responded by promoting concrete measures for reform. It has offered a range of innovative budgetary and financial proposals; it has actively participated in exercises to rationalize and to improve the economic and social structure of the UN. Above all, Canadians are working to make the United Nations a more dynamic and effective force for the 1990s.

There is much to be said for the UN: its successes in containing hostilities through peacekeeping operations; in assisting countries achieve independence; in providing refugees with shelter and relief; in saving millions of chil-

CANADA-ASEAN CENTRE TO OPEN

Following up on plans unveiled at last year's ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference, Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark announced that the Canada-ASEAN Centre will be opening shortly in Singapore. In his statement, he thanked Singapore Foreign Minister Dhanabalan for the cooperation of his Government, which will enable the Centre to be fully operational by early next year.

The mandate of the Centre is to improve the management of Canada's activities in ASEAN and to encourage the creation of new partnerships in the region. This is expected to be particularly important in implementing the activities within the ASEAN-Canada Human Resource Development and Scholarship Programs. The Centre will also promote and encourage greater exchange between educational institutions and support closer ties between the private sectors of Canada and the ASEAN countries.

The total budget of the project will exceed \$4 million.

dren from starvation; and in building bridges of goodwill between people from every part of the world.

In the years ahead, through the United Nations and the multilateral system as a whole, Canada will work to develop every opportunity to promote peace, harmony and security for all members of the world community.

Canadian peace-keeping troops arrive in the Middle East

