

war had produced a turn-around in the organization. "The relevance of the organization, the legitimacy of the organization, cannot, I think, now be credibly challenged." Opinion in the US had changed, Mr. Lewis said, citing recent comments by US ambassador to the UN, Vernon Walters, that the position of the US in the UN had improved. However, Mr. Lewis added, the US continued to withhold money owed to the UN, despite the UN's "wrenching administrative and financial overhaul," and thus kept the organization "very much under the gun" (*Ottawa Citizen*, August 14).

Mr. Lewis was not unequivocal in his praise of the UN, however. On September 17 the ambassador told an Ottawa Conservative group that the UN was "the most sexist organization I have ever worked in. [There is] no sense of feeling or concern" among many countries over the plight of women in some cultures and societies, he said, and gender — not race — was the cause of more problems in attaining agreement among member states. Canada was viewed as the leading member of the UN in the struggle to broaden women's rights, he added: "A lot of countries are a little offended by our determination on women's issues" (*Ottawa Citizen*, September 18).

### **Conference on Disarmament and Development**

From August 24 to September 11 External Affairs Minister Joe Clark led the Canadian delegation to the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development at UN headquarters in New York. A major objective of the delegation was to encourage a renewed commitment by all UN members to the disarmament and development processes, in the recognition that those goals could only contribute to the enhancement of peace, security and a better quality of life for everyone (External Affairs communiqué, August 20).

In the first plenary statement of the conference on August 24, Mr. Clark rejected a proposal in the conference's draft report for an "international financial mechanism" to channel military savings into extra aid for needy countries. "This conference can be most useful if it probes beneath the assumption that there can be an automatic transfer of funds from arms to development. We must understand why governments spend on arms — and understand also that there is simply no evidence — no reason to believe — that governments are likely to disarm, at the expense of what they consider their security, in order to divert funds to development. If we are serious, the reality we must recognize is that the level of a nation's security is the main criterion against which efforts for disarmament must be measured, not the level of economic gain . . . I mean security in its broadest sense — not just military strength. The sense of economic and social well-being is an important factor in a nation's overall security" (External Affairs communiqué, August 26).

The Minister also said that a new mechanism to channel military savings into extra aid "would not mean new funds for development. It would mean new bureaucrats for development." Worldwide, Mr. Clark pointed out, about twenty-five times more money was spent on arms than on development, but in Canada — even with plans to boost military spending under the new defence White Paper —

military spending was four times higher than aid to developing countries. "If the rest of the world were operating under the same rules that Canada is operating under, we'd have significantly fewer problems," Mr. Clark said. With regard to the refusal of the US to attend the conference, Mr. Clark commented, "It's been my experience that you never win an argument by leaving the room" (*Ottawa Citizen*, August 25).

### **Strong Elected to UN Federation**

In August it was announced that Canadian Maurice Strong had been elected president of the World Federation of United Nations Associations. Mr. Strong was a former under-secretary at the UN and executive director of its African emergency relief efforts in 1985 and 1986. He was the first Canadian to hold the post. The announcement was made at the Federation's annual assembly in Ottawa (*Ottawa Citizen*, August 22).

In her remarks to the Federation's assembly, Minister for External Relations Monique Landry said, "There is no longer any question of whether or not there will be global governance. The question is how it will come into being . . . Governments and international secretariats are so preoccupied with the . . . crises of the moment that they rarely have the time or patience for future-oriented analysis. Moreover, the idea that the people of this world could deal with each other without reference to their nation states, or the idea of a transformation of the United Nations to operate on any other basis than the principle of one-nation-one-vote, seem beyond the reach of the present generation. But let us be reminded that the decolonization process of the 1950s and 1960s was a quite sudden reversal of a strong and widely held belief that such changes would take many generations" (External Affairs communiqué, August 17).

### **Canadians Honored**

During the UN International Year of Peace in 1986, the cities of Vancouver and Toronto, and the Peace Research Institute of Dundas, Ontario conducted activities that gained them recognition by the UN as "peace messengers." Each was to receive on September 15 from UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar a certificate recognizing their contributions to peace. Among the other Canadian organizations so honored were Children for Peace, Peace Fund Canada, Saskatoon Mothers for Peace and the UN Association in Canada (*Globe and Mail*, September 11).

### **More Troops to Cyprus**

External Affairs Minister Joe Clark announced on September 18 that Canada would be providing an additional sixty soldiers to the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. The additional forces were part of a new deployment of soldiers requested by the UN to replace the Swedish forces which would be withdrawn at the end of 1987. The first deployment of additional troops would take place in October. Mr. Clark expressed the hope that the decision to send additional forces to Cyprus would help spur efforts to find a solution to the more than 20-year-old political impasse in that country. He pointed out that the force not only helped maintain the peace in Cyprus, but also performed important humani-