

International Perspectives

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Editor's Note:

October 24 is United Nations Day. That was the day in 1945 on which all five Permanent Members of the Security Council and a majority of the other signatories filed their instruments of ratification. And the UN was born. It is forty now, and still around. Probably not prematurely senile, as some disaffected Westerners would charge, but needing all the help it can get. Canadians were enthusiastic participants in the birth of the UN, supporters of declining fidelity over those years (until very recently), but still now with as much reason as any to feel the pangs of pride and joy over four decades of survival — after all, the League of Nations did not make twenty.

This issue of *International Perspectives* notes that anniversary by offering several articles on the United Nations: how it happened, by Charles Ritchie, who was there; Ambassador Stephen Lewis's stout and affectionate defence of the institution after one year in attendance; some collected views on the UN and Canada's performance thereat by Peyton Lyon. Then we have two articles about Canada and human rights; one of them — by Philippe Le Blanc — comments on our performance at the latest session of the UN Commission on Human Rights (not great), and the other — by Irving Brecher — argues that Canadian aid to developing countries should be offered in the service of human rights.

Two other articles touch on our relations with the United States. David Leyton-Brown of York University assesses Mr. Mulroney's foreign policy as one of a close and uncritical embrace with the US — a policy with great benefits and great risks. K.J. Merklinger of the Department of External Affairs reviews President Reagan's nuclear arms control policy, including some comments on Star Wars.

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