

APPENDIX
(See p. 624)

ADDRESS
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION
TO
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
IN THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS CHAMBER, OTTAWA
ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1985

His Excellency the Secretary-General was welcomed by the Right Hon. Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada, and thanked by the Hon. Guy Charbonneau, Speaker of the Senate, and the Hon. John W. Bosley, Speaker of the House of Commons.

[English]

Hon. John W. Bosley (Speaker of the House of Commons): Mr. Secretary-General, we are highly honoured to have you address this joint session of the Senate and the House of Commons. Before calling on the Prime Minister, we want to welcome you and Mrs. Perez de Cuellar warmly to our Parliament.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, Your Excellency, Mr. Secretary-General and Mrs. Perez de Cuellar, Hon. Members of the Senate and the House of Commons, it is a special occasion in the life of the Canadian Parliament when we gather to hear a distinguished visitor address a joint session of the Senate and the House of Commons. Today, we have the honour of receiving the head of the world's pre-eminent international organization, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and we bid you a warm welcome.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: In his presence let me reaffirm, on your behalf, Canada's commitment to the United Nations and to the values and aspirations it was created to serve.

Mr. Secretary-General, there has been no war on our soil in more than a century and a half. In that respect, Canadians are among the most fortunate people in the world. Yet three times in this century young Canadians have put on uniforms and, leaving all they love behind, have gone overseas to war. Six hundred and twenty thousand did so in the First World War;

550,000 in the Second World War; and 25,000 in Korea. More than 100,000 Canadians died in those wars. Most of them were younger by far than any of us in this Chamber today, and they lie in graves in Europe and Asia. Those who came back to Canada gladly turned to peaceful occupations and to the building of this country. Some of them sit in this parliament. Some have raised sons and daughters who sit in this parliament with us today.

[Translation]

Canada has not forgotten those days and the lessons of those days. So long as there remains etched in our national memory the sacrifice of our youth and the trauma of war, peace will be, Mr. Secretary-General, the paramount objective of this nation, of its Parliament and of its Government. I mean a lasting peace, a just peace, a universal peace.

[Applause]

Forty years ago the terrible memories were new and hopes were high that the United Nations could ensure international order and world peace.

On many occasions and in many parts of the world, the United Nations system has in fact helped prevent the worst from happening. Your predecessors, sir, have played an honourable and a memorable part in those events. Your own very tenacious efforts have contributed to the easing of tensions in such areas as the Falkland/Malvinas Islands, Cyprus, the Middle East and Africa.

[English]

Yet, as we meet today, the most tragic and brutal wars are laying waste to the lives and resources of human beings and