

FOREWARD

UNITED NATIONS DAY 1978

In his United Nations Day message to Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim on October 24, 1978, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, spoke about Canada's interest in disarmament, Namibia, UN effectiveness and adaptability, human rights and development. Here is part of Mr. Jamieson's UN Day message:

The Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament proclaimed the week of October 24th as "one devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament". You, yourself, have reminded us that "no other forum can fulfil the requirement of universal involvement that the present situation demands".

The Government and people of Canada have found a basis for renewed faith in and optimism about the workings of the United Nations this past year as a result of the outcome of the attention devoted to disarmament. We view with satisfaction the fact that world leaders and other representatives used this occasion to transcend their own particular interests in order to join together to pursue effective measures of disarmament through negotiations and agreement. With other member states, Canada will participate with new hope in the negotiation of multilateral disarmament agreements, based on the program of action approved by the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament.

We are about to conclude our fourth term on the Security Council. We have sought, during our tenure on the Council, to help the United Nations to deal with conflicts in many parts of the world and we look forward, in particular, to positive results that may be achieved in Namibia. I was very pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with you on October 20, on behalf of my Western colleagues, in order to bring you up to date on the results of our talks in Pretoria on the question of Namibia.

Canada also shares the concern described in your report that the UN must make an effort "to find new procedures to match the speed, diversity and sheer complexity of modern life". It is important that the operations of the UN be understood and respected in member states. Our current procedures do not always help to encourage such understanding. In addition, Canada will continue to give close attention to the efforts in the United Nations to improve the rights of ordinary people throughout the world, and to narrow the gap between the standards of living enjoyed by those who live in developed and developing countries.