



## **SSEA Applauds New Vitality in Arms Control Process**

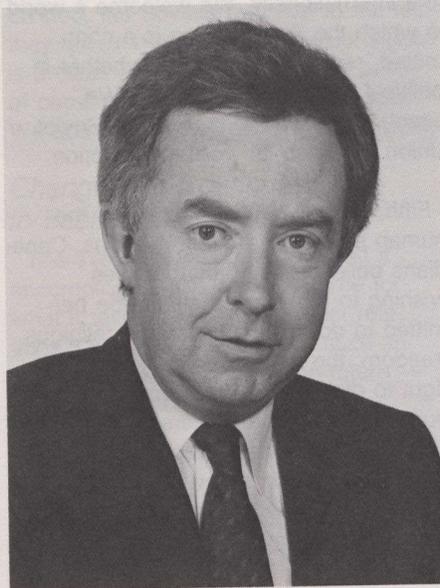
*On September 22, 1987, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, spoke to the 42nd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Following are excerpts from his address.*

"A year ago, the atmosphere in this assembly was heavy with a sense of crisis. The financial shortfall of the United Nations, serious in itself, was also a symptom of a deeper worry about the very existence of this organization.

Canada — and other friends of the United Nations — used this podium to call for reform. I am pleased today to note that substantial reform has begun. That is both a tribute to the men and women who make this organization work, and testimony to the recognition, by most nations, that a strong United Nations is essential to world peace. We are especially impressed with the United Nations resolve to extend reform beyond the institutions in New York, to United Nations economic and social institutions throughout the world.

For our part, Canada made a point of paying our 1987 assessment fully and as early as possible. We hope other nations will quickly pay their current and past assessments. Those who call for internal reform have a particular obligation and opportunity to encourage it, once it begins. That good example would increase the pressure upon other powers, whose contributions are consistently delinquent.

During the past year this real internal reform has been matched by solid progress on many of the major issues of concern to the United Nations. Sometimes that progress occurred outside this multilateral organization — as, for example, in the historic breakthrough on an arms agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, and in the steady pressure against apartheid mounted by the Commonwealth, and in the initiative towards peace launched by the five presidents of Central America. But in many other cases, the world's movement forward was rooted here. Those cases are worth enumerating.



*Mr. Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs.*

In the ongoing war between Iran and Iraq, Security Council Resolution 598 reflects welcome political will and unanimity in the Security Council, and the Secretary-General is to be commended for his patient, persistent mediation. The Secretary-General's mission was not as successful as we all had hoped and the speech this morning by the President of Iran can only be characterized as destructive and deeply disappointing. Therefore the Security Council should be reconvened to take the next step. Canada would fully support implementation of the axiomatic second half of Resolution 598, the application of sanctions.

At UNCTAD VII, the consensus statement on trade, debt and commodities may presage a new era of cooperation between developed and developing countries. UNCTAD VII was an example of an international conference for whose outcome the prognosis was uniformly gloomy. The doubters were wrong. The UN scored a major success.

The special session on Africa is beginning to yield concrete results, albeit there is a long, long way yet to go. The international community clearly now

recognizes that the majority of African countries are making great efforts to turn their economies around. But the international community must equally recognize that the debt situation for many African countries is desperate, and must be addressed in new and innovative ways or the entire recovery programme may collapse. In that context, I welcome the Secretary-General's appointment of the advisory panel on resource flows. We anxiously await its report. As most members of this assembly know, Canada is so concerned about this issue that at the Francophone Summit we announced the cancellation of all official debt which we have held in francophone Africa. Next month, we will do the same at the Commonwealth Conference for anglophone Africa.

The Brundtland Commission has produced a blunt and clear report on the urgency of protecting our resources and environment. In that spirit, in Montreal last week, nations signed an ozone treaty, controlling the emissions of chlorofluoro-carbons. Dr. Mostafa Tolba, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, called it 'the first truly global treaty that offers protection to every single human being on the planet.' Our government believes that Montreal treaty will serve as a model for future international agreements on the environment.

The Conference on Disarmament and Development, just concluded, yielded a remarkable consensus document, holding disarmament and development as essential to national security. It graphically demonstrated the capacity of this organization to find agreement in the most complex fields.

The World Health Organization is recognized as a crucial resource for gathering the statistics and planning necessary as countries struggle to master the worldwide AIDS epidemic.

Within its own doors, the United Nations has made social strides in another field — the equality rights of women. In 41 years there had not been even one woman permanently appointed as an Under-Secretary-General. Now there are three, and we take particular