



Maggie Catley-Carlson on UNICEF:

■ "UNICEF has certainly tried harder than every other organization to promote primary health care and literacy as empowering vehicles. ... It doesn't do any good just to deliver things to people. You need to convince people that they have the means in their own hands of changing their own destiny; that, either by mobilizing in their own community, or by changing slightly the way they feed their children, or by agreeing to plant and nurture some trees, they are taking steps that really can make a demonstrable difference to their own lives."

One of the most senior posts held by a Canadian at the United Nations was that of Under-Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Administration and Management. George Davidson was appointed to that position in 1972, and held it for seven years. He was in charge not only of the budget and financial affairs of the United Nations, but also of personnel matters.

Maurice Strong is well-known for his longstanding contribution to several UN endeavours. In Stockholm in 1972, he presided over the first of several UN Conferences on the Human Environment. This was followed six months later by the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) located in Nairobi, and Mr. Strong became its first Executive Director.

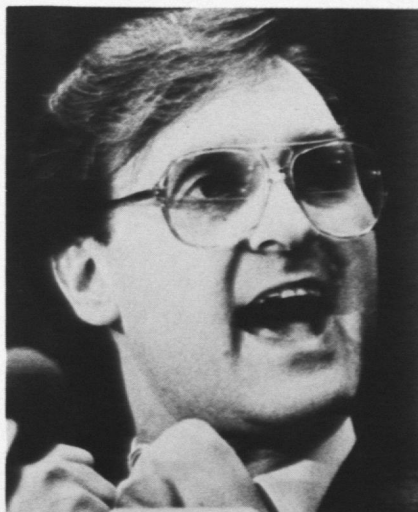
In December 1984, the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa was set up by the Secretary-General. Maurice Strong was asked to take on the challenging job of Executive Coordinator of the Office and to help remedy a situation which he later described as "the largest known example of ecological breakdown." In August 1987, Mr. Strong was elected President of the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

In 1975, Yvon Beaulne was elected as Canada's Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission and he served as chairman at its 35th Session. His nine years on the Commission saw the drafting of three major conventions — the conventions on Torture, on the Rights of the Child and on Ethnic, Linguistic and Religious Minorities — and the Declaration on the Right to Development. Mr. Beaulne was highly respected for his humanitarianism, for his capabilities as a conciliator and for his diligence in seeking consensus among member states.

Prior to becoming President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in August 1983, Margaret Catley-Carlson spent two years with UNICEF as Deputy Executive Director, Operations. UNICEF had just entered a period of dramatic change with the adoption of the child survival strategy which could, in her words, "have an absolutely startling effect on the health of the world's children." Mrs. Catley-Carlson also took on the challenging task of reorganizing the 3 000 staff of UNICEF at a time when the agency was involved in shifting resources to meet the growing needs of African states. Mrs. Catley-Carlson is now Deputy Minister of Health and Welfare Canada.

Stephen Lewis on the UN:

■ "It is not so much a solution which is required here; it is rather the inspired knack of keeping doors open, countries talking, a vital process going. These modest initiatives help to keep the world on track when all around us there is menace, alarm and hostility. If the United Nations system did not exist it would somehow be created."



During the General Assembly's Special Session on Africa in May 1986, Stephen Lewis, Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations, chaired the committee which reached a consensus on the five-year Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. In recognition of his achievements, and of Canada's generous response to the African crisis, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Lewis as his Special Advisor on the African Recovery Program. In the course of these new duties, Stephen Lewis has travelled extensively throughout Africa and senses "that this coming together over Africa has given the UN a new lease on life."

Mr. Yves Fortier presented his credentials as Canada's Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the United Nations on September 14, 1988. A distinguished lawyer and an Officer of the Order of Canada, Mr. Fortier has extensive experience in the field of international law. He has represented Canada at the International Court of Justice and has been a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague since 1984. Encouraged by recent signs of decreased tension in the international political environment, Mr. Fortier is enthusiastic about the role of the United Nations. "The prospects for making real progress on a number of issues have never looked more promising and you can be assured that Canada will maintain a leading role in support of these efforts." Mr. Fortier will serve as President of the Security Council in October 1989.

These are only a few Canadians who have contributed actively and responsibly to the work of the UN and its specialized agencies as devoted employees and volunteers during the past 43 years. As well, since 1945, more than 80 000 Canadian servicemen and women have worn the United Nations blue beret with honour and pride, and have carried out their peacekeeping duties in a manner that symbolizes the on-going commitment of the people and Government of Canada to the maintenance of international peace and security.

