

thirty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly in the autumn.

The Habitat Conference also adopted 64 recommendations on national measures to provide minimum standards for the inhabitants of rural and urban areas concerning housing, water, health, infrastructures and the environment.

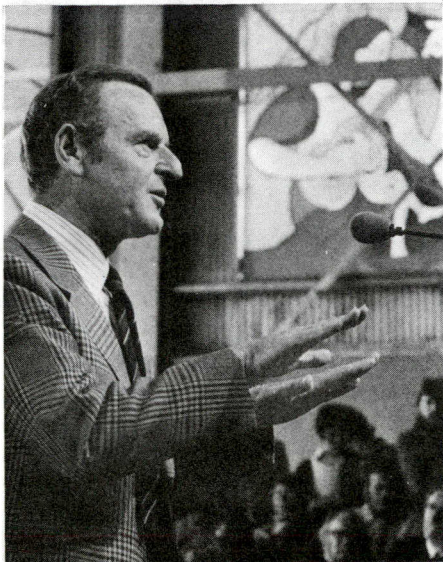
In addition, delegates unanimously recommended that the UN General Assembly set up an audio-visual information centre on human settlements at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver to house, reproduce, enlarge and use a collection of some 200 films and slides presented at the Conference by over 120 countries.

All governments were asked to support and to participate in the United Nations Water Conference slated for March 1977 in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

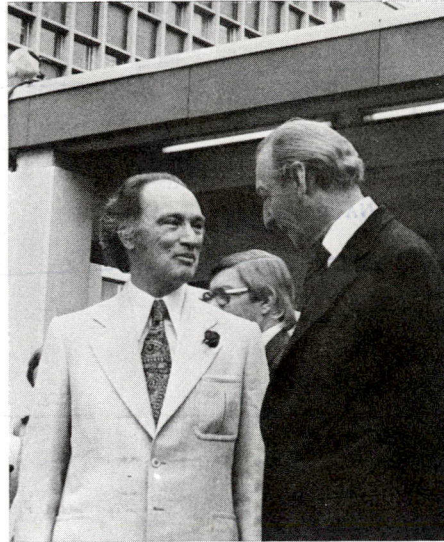
A recommendation to the effect that the UN Secretary-General submit to the General Assembly in 1977 a report on the living conditions of Palestinians in occupied territories was passed by a roll-call vote of 43 to three, with 42 abstentions.

A time to begin work

Although there was disagreement on some points, all delegates endorsed the statement of the Mexican representative who, in thanking Conference Chairman Danson, and Secretary-General of the Conference, Enrique Peñalosa, pointed out that the ex-



Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson, Habitat Conference Chairman addresses Habitat Forum.



The Prime Minister greets UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.

change of views made possible by the Conference was a significant step toward international co-operation. Mr. Peñalosa stated that now was the time for the work to begin. Echoing words in Mr. Trudeau's opening address, Mr. Danson added that "the world we leave must be better than the one we now know", and that "posterity will judge us according to our accomplishments".

Still in the words of Mr. Trudeau, "Human settlements are linked so closely to existence itself...are so laden with questions of rights and desires, with needs and aspirations, so racked with injustices and deficiencies, that the subject cannot be approached with the leisurely detachment of the solitary theoretician. We must make a commitment and follow it through, constantly reminding ourselves that it is man who is at the centre of the habitat question."

Habitat Forum

Habitat Forum – an unofficial conference held in parallel with the official one – took place at Jericho Beach, a few miles from downtown Vancouver (see also *Canada Weekly* dated June 16, 1976).

Some of the general public believed that the "real" conference took place at the Forum. The beach at Jericho, with its modest but imaginative structures, numerous audio-visual presentations, debates by non-governmental organizations and well-known personalities concerned about settlements,

was as crowded as the balcony of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre was empty during the UN plenary sessions.

Outstanding at the Forum and at Habitat was Barbara Ward, British economist and author, whose writings on settlement problems have warned her readers of the dangers that will face mankind in the year 2000, when population will have doubled to seven billion. Miss Ward, who objects to being called a pessimist, has in numerous conferences stressed the difficulties the next generation will face when the waters have been so polluted they can no longer be purified. Horrifying outbreaks of the plague, cholera and dysentery will succeed in conquering humanity if world leaders are unable to begin planning settlements for all mankind immediately – specially for the 50 per cent of the world's population which has so small a share of its riches, says Barbara Ward.

Declaration of the Symposium

The Declaration of the Vancouver Symposium will no doubt come to be considered the most significant statement to emanate from Habitat. It was signed by 24 well-known figures, including U.S. anthropologist Margaret Mead, architect Buckminster Fuller also of the U.S., and Maurice Strong, the president of Petro-Canada, who played a key part in the Stockholm Conference on the Environment.

The Declaration states that "a first



Barbara Ward of Britain, economist and author, who objects to being called a pessimist.