

## **Prime Minister Mulroney Addresses General Assembly**

*The following are excerpts from the address by the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, to the 43rd United Nations General Assembly.*

"I believe we are on the brink of a new age where the differences that have divided us are becoming less important than the dangers we must face together. It is a new age where concrete acts which make our world more secure must—and can—be matched by tangible commitments to reduce poverty in the developing world and protect our common environment. ...

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Agreement is an historic first step in arms reduction for which we owe a great debt of gratitude to the courage and leadership of President Reagan of the United States and of General Secretary Gorbachev of the Soviet Union. They have built a foundation, and we can now expand upon it.

We can cut strategic weapons. We can limit the spread of nuclear weapons. We can limit nuclear testing, and every step in this direction takes us closer to a comprehensive test ban. We must redouble our efforts to reach a treaty banning chemical weapons.

In this respect, I welcome President Reagan's proposal for an early meeting of the signatories of the Geneva Protocol on the prohibition of chemical weapons. We must also control conventional weapons. Let us not forget that it is in conventional wars that people are still dying today. I encourage this Assembly to provoke and provide even more achievements in the field of disarmament. ...

In Afghanistan, the attempt to impose solutions by invasion and occupation has failed and the Soviet Union is withdrawing its forces. The United Nations remains heavily involved in the search for solutions. In the Gulf, no country has been able to impose its will by force. Representatives of the United Nations, including 500 Canadians, now patrol in peace where hundreds of thousands recently died in combat.

Canada's role in these events is consistent with our tradition of more than four decades of peacekeeping, a role we have always willingly assumed. Canada has participated in every UN peacekeeping force since its foundation and we are proud that this contribution, costly and difficult though it has often been, has assisted in bringing stability to explosive regions of the world.

Today a significant portion of our armed forces are either involved in peacekeeping around the world, or training for further duty in the service of peace. The award today of the Nobel Peace Prize for Peacekeeping is a splendid tribute both to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to those courageous men and women who patrol the world's danger spots in the pursuit of a durable peace.

But not everywhere do we see the progress we would wish. The vicious cycle of repression and violence is unbroken in South Africa. We all know the cause: the massive and institutionalized violation of human rights called apartheid. Internationally, pressure is increasing and is having an impact. The entire world finds apartheid repugnant: the whole world must now join forces to bring it to an end. Canada has taken strong measures on its own to rid our civilization of this unique evil, known as apartheid.

We are under no illusions about the effectiveness of our efforts alone and so we have actively pursued objectives in cooperation with other governments, especially in the Commonwealth and la Francophonie. From the outset, we have applied all the sanctions agreed within the Commonwealth; we will continue to do so. And we will seek to broaden their application, increase their effectiveness and encourage others to join in adopting and applying them.

Consistent with our policy of moving systematically and deliberately to increase pressure on South Africa, our Government announced earlier this week specific new measures to tighten the ban on government contracts with South African companies and a further ban on

high technology, together with initiatives designed to add practical support to peaceful efforts to work against apartheid. Because of threats to major development projects in the Front Line States, we intend to provide assistance, in concert with others, to preserve these development initiatives.

The movement in favour of human dignity is now irreversible. There can be no doubt that fundamental change will come to South Africa. The only questions are when and how and at what cost in human life.

We must make sure the answers are soon, and peacefully—and that a framework is preserved that will give rise to a non-racial democratic South Africa. Only then will the children of Mandela know the gifts that freedom brings.

The problems of the Middle East have preoccupied this Assembly since the creation of the United Nations. Peaceful solutions have proved elusive, and in their absence, violence and extremism have increased. But that is an argument for redoubled effort, not for despair.

There is today growing support for a properly structured international conference based on Israel's right to exist and recognition of the rights of Palestinians. Canada believes that such a conference can provide a path toward dialogue and away from a situation that appears to promise little but further suffering. ...

Who would have predicted a year ago that today Soviet forces would be withdrawing from Afghanistan; that Vietnamese forces would begin withdrawing from Cambodia; that UN peacekeepers would be patrolling the Iran-Iraq border; that negotiations on Angola and on the Western Sahara would be starting to bear fruit; that the Secretary-General would be discussing the independence of Namibia with the South African government.

Those who have doubted both the value of multilateralism and the UN surely must be re-assessing their views today. The Secretary-General's recent report on the work of this organization is a document which should inspire the deliberations of this Assembly.