

army of advisers, thus allowing the ministers to exchange views informally. Meetings at ministerial level should be held once or twice a year rather than once every 25 years. The first meeting might well be devoted to finding ways to make the work of the Council more relevant to the major issues of peace and security.

Economic and Social Council

When I spoke here last year, I suggested that the Economic and Social Council should be given a more significant role....

My delegation believes the Council should have more frequent and shorter sessions. At each of these it could deal thoroughly with one group of subjects, covering all of its agenda over a two-year period. From time to time the Council should also meet at ministerial level to review major economic or social questions when policy considerations justify participation at this level....

Specialized Agencies

We must also work for an improvement in the work of the Specialized Agencies.... We shall have to ensure that budgets are kept down, and that money is spent only on subjects that have the highest priority.

A second problem with the specialized agencies has been the extent to which they have been turned from their main purposes to deal with the political issues which are the responsibility of this Assembly. Canada is determined to resist this process....

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Economic issues

Although they manifest themselves in a variety of troubling ways including open conflicts, it is now apparent that the principal concerns of most members are, in fact, economic. The UN and its Agencies have their work cut out for them if we are to move closer to a more just and equitable world economic order. The barriers to success are enormous as unemployment and inflation continue to plague even the wealthiest countries. Unless a spirit of reasonableness prevails, unless demands and responses are tailored to present economic realities, I must caution that even in Canada, which is far from being the least generous of the developed countries, pressures will develop to focus on our own considerable problems even to the exclusion of the international consequences. I need hardly tell you that we are not alone in this difficulty.

Canada's goal is to build on the foundations we helped to create through our co-chairmanship of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation. Given the proper climate we will work hard to devise a strategy that is both broadly acceptable and realistic. In the coming weeks, Canada's representations here, and at other UN and related meetings, will announce additional Canadian financial commitments to a large number of international organizations....

Food aid

The world food shortage has been eased by good harvests in many countries. However, the factors which gave rise to the recent crisis are still present, and recent studies concur in the likelihood of a short-fall in the next five to ten years. One proposal to improve world food security concerns the idea of a 500,000-ton emergency grain reserve. Canada previously announced a willingness to contribute along with other donors. I am now able to announce that, subject to Parliamentary approval, we would be willing to provide the equivalent of \$7.5 million in food grain — roughly 50,000 tons or 10 per cent of the total objective.

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Law of the Sea

Since I last spoke to this Assembly there have been important developments with respect to the Law of the Sea conference. This historic conference illustrates very well some of the best and some of the worst aspects of United Nations deliberations and processes. Without the UN there is little doubt that management and control of the oceans and their resources would have deteriorated into anarchy. The conference is, therefore, one of the UN's great achievements; its originators and all who have participated deserve great credit. But it is an agonizingly slow process.

In the past 12 months many countries including Canada have extended their fishing jurisdiction over living resources in their coastal waters out to 200 miles. While it is true that these actions are based upon the common will of states reflected in the draft conference texts, it is also true that before that point could be reached, many fish stocks had become dangerously depleted, vital elements of the world's fishing industry were jeopardized and serious confrontations developed between traditionally friendly

Canadians at the UN

Don Jamieson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, heads the Canadian delegation at the UNGA. Other delegates are: William Barton, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, New York; the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs; Miss Coline Campbell, MP; Claude-André Lachance, MP; R. Harry Jay, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, Geneva; Pierre Charpentier, Ambassador of Canada to Algeria; John Small, Department of External Affairs, former Ambassador of Canada to the People's Republic of China; Dean R. St. J. Macdonald, Faculty of Law, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia; William C.Y. McGregor, National President, Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks General Vice-President, Canadian Labour Congress.

countries.

There are legitimate and complex reasons why the negotiations were difficult. But we cannot ignore the fact either that old habits and patterns are hard to abandon and it is ironic in some respects that only by acting in advance of the conclusion of the conference did Canada and countries which took similar action enhance the United Nations and the undoubted value of the conference. This lesson should, and I hope will, lend new urgency to the important work of the conference that remains to be completed. We have taken ten years to come this far and the gains will be dissipated by a series of unilateral actions unless a comprehensive agreed international regime comes into force very soon.

Southern Africa

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Soon we will be discussing the most recent plan for the attainment of majority rule in Rhodesia. Canada fully supports the plan not only because we believe it provides the basis for a fair and equitable solution but also because we reject totally the alternative of further bloodshed. There must be no lessening of our resolve to see the end of the present illegal minority Rhodesian regime and for

(Continued on P. 7)