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Prime Minister Trudeau with a rug depicting the Habitat symbol

of the preparatory committee for Habitat, Mr Barny J. Danson, Canada's Minister of State for Urban Affairs, said extracts) :

"We believe that in human terms Habitat can be the most important United Nations' conference ever held. Its subject matter is of direct concern to all humanity and critical to the world we build for future generations. The opportunity for substantial progress in problem-solving that Habitat presents is immense.

"Most nations of the world will have to build as many communities in the next 25 years as exist today. Canada may well be one of them, and thus our concern is very real. Some nations — the poorer nations -- will have to build three or four times as many communities as they have today.

"This is an unprecedented problem, in terms of sheer scale, in terms of rate of change and in terms of potential or for chaos. The opportunity that Habitat provides may not recur.

"Habitat is not merely important for its own sake but as a timely and, I would say, very necessary, opportunity for the United Nations to demonstrate that it can address a vital issue in a solution-oriented way. We have an opportunity to demonstrate that men and women of goodwill, governments dedicated to the well-being of their people, can meet together and direct our intelligence and resources, material and human, to technical issues that exist and will continue to exist, irrespective of the differences that frequently divide us politically.

"A two-week conference, even with the careful planning that is going into Habitat, can only achieve so much. Its greatest value must be as a catalyst. But it can achieve some very specific things. First, it is my hope, and, I know, yours also, that Habitat shall produce an institutional restructuring in the United Nations that will enable the UN to play a stronger role in human settlements issues than it has in the past. Habitat is the first occasion that ministers and senior officials have ever had within the UN to discuss major human settlement concerns. It cannot be the last. We need, for example, a strong, senior representative UN committee on human settlements which will meet annually to evaluate progress after Habitat, and to develop new priorities and programs in response to new needs and problems.



#### HABITAT STAMP

**A** 20-cent commemorative stamp featuring HABITAT. The United Nations Conference On Human Settlements, has been issued by Canada.

The stamp was designed by I A. R. MacLeod of Ottawa and depicts the skyline of a crowded urban centre set against a background of ominous gray clouds suspended in a blue sky. Springing from the pavement is a varicoloured rose on a bright green stem, symbolizing hope for the future of this crowded universe.

tion of the increased population, and problems are already quite evident — congestion, pollution, slums, squatter settlements, social alienation, crime, poverty and starvation or undernourishment.

A parallel conference at the unofficial level, the Habitat Forum also studied the same problems. Thus, while about 5,000 persons were to be involved officially in downtown Vancouver, about 3,000 representatives of non-governmental organizations were working on their own solutions at a specially developed site at Jericho Beach-Park and at the University of British Columbia. The Forum started on May 27; the official conference from May 29. Both ended on June 11.

In a speech at the second session