

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Let me say at once how pleased I am to have been invited to share in the closing banquet of your annual seminar on the United Nations. As a former teacher at St. Francis Xavier, I am delighted to be back, even though briefly, in the academic atmosphere of another distinguished Maritime university. Although I am no longer engaged in university teaching, I continue to take a close interest in educational affairs, and I am, therefore, grateful for this opportunity to take part in this distinctive "teach-in". Drawing students from all over the Atlantic Provinces and from the United States as well to examine the problems of the United Nations for a week in a series of lectures, debates, and study groups in this congenial university environment is, to my mind, one of the most effective ways of helping to develop a heightened awareness of the nature and purposes of the United Nations on the part of the public. Mr. Douglas How, the organizers of the seminar and the authorities of Mount Allison University are to be congratulated for creating this stimulating learning opportunity for students who will, in turn, through their school and community activities, contribute to a wider and better understanding of the United Nations.

My interest and involvement in this occasion is not prompted solely by the natural concerns of a former teacher. As the minister responsible for Canada's external relations, I am deeply interested in the fact that your subject for continuing study is the United Nations. You have -- if I may say so -- chosen well. This unique international institution is essential to our efforts at some kind of rational ordering of affairs among nation-states. Whatever its faults we cannot get along without it; there is no real alternative to this universal diplomatic forum. At the present time the United Nations is going through a period of particular strain; and, as always in a time of crisis, the clouds of critics around it grow more clamorous. In these circumstances support for the U.N. is vital. It is a fundamental objective of Canadian foreign policy that the government continue to provide such support. But to be effective, this, in turn, must be backed up by an informed and sympathetic public. This seminar contributes in no small way to the creation of that kind of public.

I understand that during this past week one of the two main subjects you have discussed is Cyprus. From the standpoint of both the United Nations and Canada, this inevitably entails peacekeeping.

Last autumn, in speaking to the General Assembly of the United Nations, I singled out peacekeeping as a matter of particular concern to the international community. As I