

Canada on the UN Security Council 1989-90



Ottawa, Ontario
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February, 1990

Dear Readers:

Over the past year, we have been pleased to provide interested individuals and organizations with periodic summaries of Canada's activities as a non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council. The enclosed summary serves as an update on Council developments since our last report was prepared in August. As you can see, the period September-January was extremely busy, with the Security Council called upon to deal with a wide range of challenging issues.

The United Nation's role in Namibian independence must be seen as one of its greatest achievements. The quality of the Namibian election - a source of much anxiety - exceeded the hopes and expectations of all parties to that historic event. In Central America, the year's end brought continued hope that the regional peace process and the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces could withstand both renewed violence in El Salvador and suspension of the Nicaraguan ceasefire. And, despite the U.N.'s best efforts, resolution of conflict in Cambodia and the Lebanon remains frustratingly elusive.

Canada served as President of the Security Council through the month of October. I believe that we can all be proud of the critical role played during that month by our delegation in New York and by Ambassador Yves Fortier. At a time when contentious issues threatened to hamstring the work of the Council, Ambassador Fortier succeeded in promoting and maintaining an open, positive spirit that was still being felt at year's end.

Those familiar with the inner workings of the Security Council appreciate the relentless, painstaking, behind-the-scenes work that underlies the visible accomplishments. Formal meetings of the Council - which often deal with seemingly complex issues

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