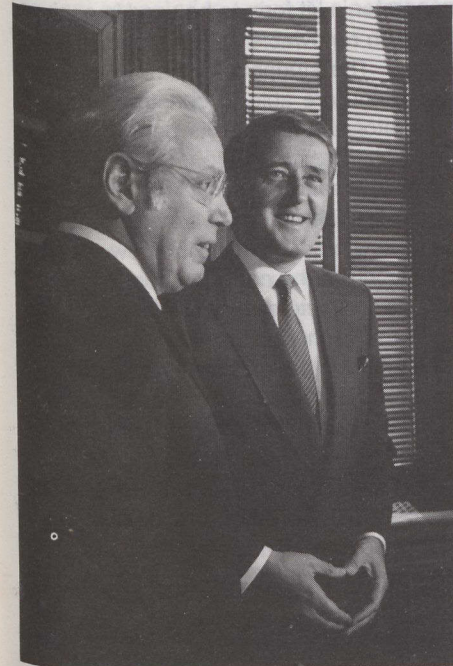


UN head visits Canada

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar made an official visit to Canada, March 6-9, attending meetings and functions in Toronto, Ottawa and Quebec City. He was accompanied by Canada's ambassador to the United Nations, Stephen Lewis.

Mr. Lewis said Canada was among the countries chosen to visit in this fortieth anniversary year of the UN because of its "solidarity over the last four decades with the United Nations".

Canada's total contribution to the UN for 1982, the last year for which total figures are available, amounted to \$157.9 million.



Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (right) welcomed the UN secretary-general to Ottawa.

In Toronto, the UN secretary-general met with Ontario government officials and spoke at a meeting attended by representatives of Canadian agencies who deal with international problems and other interested observers. He also attended a banquet sponsored by the United Nations Association in Canada.

Aid to Africa

He appealed to Canadians to make relief to African famine victims a major priority. He said that Canadians had done an admirable job so far, and should increase their aid to the Africans, "not out of compassion but out of human solidarity". Besides giving money and facing the debt problem, he said, the international community must take action to restore soil fertility and to give technical assistance to development projects.



UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar addressed a joint session of the House of Commons and Senate during his visit to Canada.

"There are 52 countries in Africa," he said, "and we must ensure they are prosperous, efficient, contributing members to the international community, not second- or third-class citizens".

Addressing a joint session of the House of Commons and the Senate in Ottawa on March 7, Mr. Perez de Cuellar called on the world's political leaders to stop military technology from taking command of their societies. "Technology must be the servant, not the master of people's destiny," he said.

The secretary-general described submission to military technology as a new form of determinism. Security, he said, is not purely military: economic, social, cultural and psychological security are infinitely more important than in the past.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar met with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark in Ottawa. He appealed to Canada to help the UN in a number of ways, including promoting talks between industrialized and developing countries to make the world economy more efficient and less crisis-prone.

Support for UN

Introducing Mr. Perez de Cuellar to the joint session, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney pledged Canadian support for a renewed and revitalized UN system and congratulated him for moving to make the organization more efficient.

He said the continued existence of wars were, "a reproach not to the UN but to each and every member state", and cited Canadian participation in almost all UN peacekeeping missions.

He said, however, that "we believe in a strong defence as a deterrent to war", and he added that Canada believes it can make its best contribution to its own defence and to global security by participating in bodies such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

During the visit in Ottawa the UN secretary-general was given an honorary doctorate degree by Carleton University.

The awarding of the degree to Mr. Perez de Cuellar marks the fourth time the university has honoured a secretary-general of the UN. The first honorary degree ever awarded by the university went to the then secretary-general of the UN, Dag Hammarskjold, in 1954. U Thant and Kurt Waldheim were honoured in 1962 and 1972.

Speaking at the convocation ceremony, Mr. Perez de Cuellar indicated his determination to move the UN closer to the centre of the world stage, and he called for a more aggressive approach to the UN's traditional peacekeeping mission. He said the UN should start sending troops or military observers to the world's trouble spots to stop fighting before it breaks out.

"This would amount to a new preventive role for peacekeeping," he said. "And it might also save a great many lives," he added.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar ended his Canadian visit in Quebec City where he met Quebec Premier René Lévesque and attended an international conference at Laval University on minority rights.

In a Quebec City speech, he said the UN is moving to help countries that violate human rights take steps to improve their record. "The development of technical assistance in the field of human rights must become one of our priority objectives," he said.



Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark (right) at a reception with Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Peter Bregg photos