

Statements and Speeches

No. 76/24

CANADA PLEDGES CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE WORLD ORGANIZATION

A Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, at the Thirty-first Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, September 29, 1976.

Mr. President, in addressing this Assembly for the first time, I am conscious that you have given long and distinguished service to the United Nations. My delegation is confident that your knowledge and wisdom will contribute to the success of our deliberations and pledges its full co-operation to you in carrying out your duties.

May I also welcome the newest member of the United Nations -- the Seychelles. Canada looks forward to establishing friendly relations with the people and Government of this new Commonwealth country.

I take this opportunity to express to the delegation of China the condolences of the Government and people of Canada on the death of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. The world has lost a great man.

This is a time of difficult adjustment for the United Nations. Our membership, with some notable exceptions, is virtually complete, yet there are pressures to define more strictly the obligations of membership. Efforts to adapt the procedures and structure of the UN to accommodate new policy priorities introduce new tensions in some traditional bodies and activities. Agreement on standards and principles of human rights is not matched by an equal determination to implement these standards without discrimination. The Security Council meets more frequently than before, but there is no comparable increase in the number of agreed resolutions. Acts of piracy and terror, both within and between states, undermine the principles of international law and behaviour on which the UN Charter is based. The ideal of greater economic and social equality between nations is still far from translation into practice. And, finally, the choice between anarchy or order on the oceans stands out before us in unmistakable clarity.

Universality

Canada supports the objective of universality of membership. The Charter, it is true, speaks of certain conditions for membership, but my Government takes the view that all states which apply for membership ought to be given the benefit of the doubt if such exists. Any question about the degree of independence of such states should
