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CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Text of Statement to be made in the General Debate of the 22nd Session of the General Assembly by the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs and Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, the Honourable Paul Martin, P.C., Q.C., M.P., on Wednesday, September 27th, 1967.

Mr. President, I wish to congratulate you most warmly on your election to the Presidency of this body. My Government regards your election both as a tribute to your own person and to the distinctive contribution which Romania is making to world affairs. I look forward to close cooperation with you over the coming weeks. May I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the service rendered by your predecessor, Ambassador Pazhwak of Afghanistan.

Introduction

If we are to judge by the pace of our activities since the conclusion of the 21st session, the United Nations is a vigorous and healthy institution. Two special sessions of the Assembly, an intensive series of meetings of the Security Council, not to mention the normal activities of other United Nations bodies, testify to the continuing vitality of this organization.

While this record of activity is encouraging, some will no doubt say that the results at which we have arrived are disappointing and that the United Nations has only confirmed its reputation as a forum for debate rather than an instrument for action. What have been called the "interlocking stalemates" on our agenda remain much as they were before. And yet, if talk is cheap it is certainly better than resort to the use of force. It should be of some encouragement to us that our agenda is crowded and that the world so often turns to this organization with its troubles. As far as Canada is concerned the future of the United Nations is linked to its capacity to become a universal forum in which all the conflicting interests, ideologies, and points of view of mankind can be brought together. Without contact