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CLARK ATTENDS FORTY-FIFTH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that he will attend the 45th United Nations General Assembly in New York from September 25th to 28th, where he will deliver Canada's principal statement in the general debate on September 26th.

"This General Assembly presents both unusual and unprecedented opportunities and challenges; this is the first post-Cold War era Assembly and it comes against the backdrop of strong political consensus in the Security Council regarding the Gulf crisis," stated Mr. Clark. "The rapidly evolving world situation requires a new definition of security, in the economic, social, as well as military sense - that is the challenge for Canada and the United Nations."

Canada's objective for this year's General Assembly is to use to the fullest advantage the multilateral channels of the UN to deal with persistent threats to security including regional conflicts and weapons proliferation. In addition Canada will work for progress on evolving issues such as arms control verification, democratic development, the environment, refugees, women's literacy and population growth.

"The UN is the one body that is capable of mobilizing a global response to these challenges. It must be properly charged with these mandates and given direction," added Mr. Clark. "Canada intends to invest every effort to do so."

Mr. Clark has a full agenda while in New York. He delivers the Canadian statement in the afternoon of Wednesday, September 26th. He will meet bilaterally with other foreign ministers and in multilateral settings with his colleagues from the Economic Summit (Group of Seven), the Rio Group of Latin American nations, and foreign ministers from East Asia and the North Pacific.