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CANADA FIRST MEMBER OF UN TO PAY 1987 CONTRIBUTION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Canada was the first Member State of the United Nations to pay its assessment in full for 1987. Canada's Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Mr Stephen Lewis presented to the Under Secretary-General of the United Nations a cheque for \$US 21,860,149.20 (equal to \$Cdn 30,151,703.79) representing Canada's 3.06 per cent share of the UN regular budget.

The immediate payment by Canada of its 1987 contribution is in keeping with a promise made by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney during his visit to the United Nations on October 24, 1986, and will provide concrete assistance to the United Nations at a time of severe financial crisis.

The crisis at the UN is the result of accumulated arrears by a large number of Member States and was made much more acute in 1986 by the withholding by the major contributor of much of its assessment.

Mr Clark underlined the Canadian position that arrears and withholdings of contributions by Member States are a matter of grave concern. Canada considers payment in full and on time of assessed contributions to be a treaty obligation.

Mr Clark welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly at its recent session of an important report on administrative and financial reform of the United Nations. The adoption of the Report's recommendations is a first essential step in the process of UN reform. Canada will continue its efforts to ensure that the momentum created by the adoption of these financial and budgetary reforms at the UN is sustained, and will continue to support the reform process in order to bring about a renewed political and financial commitment to the United Nations by all Member States.

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