No. 58/37   TASKS FACING UN: CANADIAN VIEW

Address by Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of
State for External Affairs, in the General
Assembly of the United Nations, New York,
September 25, 1958.

The prime purpose of the United Nations in its
present phase of development is the pursuit of peaceful
settlement and peaceful change, not by force, but by
reconciliation. In this process the general debate with which
we open our proceedings each year has an important function.
It provides an invaluable opportunity for broad exchange of
views on the international situation and upon the specific tasks
which our organization faces. In the world of today it is not
surprising that these declarations of policy by nations, great
and small, demonstrate a wide divergence of views as to the
methods by which our problems might be resolved in achieving
the noble aims of the Charter. This clash of policies -- this
urging of certain courses of action as good and the denunciation,
sometimes in heated terms, of other courses of action as bad --
which takes place in this forum does, I believe, serve a purpose
which is far greater than the mere publication to the world of
national policies of member states. This debate -- this exchange
of views -- is a part of the process of negotiation and
conciliation, a part of our efforts to ensure international
peace and security.

I desire, in this spirit, to express to you a Canadian
view on some of those matters which we have on our agenda.

The Middle East

It is only a few weeks since we met together here in
special session on the Middle East. We look forward to receiving
from the Secretary-General a report on the implementation of the
Assembly's resolution of August 21, passed at the conclusion
of that session. I do not wish to say anything which would
anticipate the Secretary-General's report, but I do think that we
should consider briefly what lessons, what guidance, may be
derived from our recent experience in the special session in