

In a sense, UNICEF and UNESCO dramatize the success and the failure. The UN system is capable of both. Canada's challenge is to keep the successes growing, and to concentrate pragmatically and persistently on reforming the failures.

The Government is making a special effort in 1985, the UN's 40th anniversary, to revitalize the UN. Important activities are taking place across Canada: the visit of Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar last March to Toronto, Ottawa and Quebec City; seminars and conferences on strengthening the United Nations; the first of what will become an annual National Model UN Assembly, organized by the UN Association in Canada, a month ago in Montreal, which brought together 650 university students from across Canada; educational materials on the United Nations which will be distributed to schools across the country. We want to reach beyond the normal constituency of Canadians who follow and support UN issues.

At the UN itself, we have been trying to mobilize, along practical lines, support for improving the effectiveness of the UN system. We have been working with a coalition of member states from all political and geographic groupings, not just in New York but also in the other UN capitals of Geneva, Vienna, Paris, Rome and Nairobi. We sometimes refer to this new coalition of committed member states as the "friends of the UN", knowing that practically every member state regards itself as a "Friend of the UN".

We do not expect dramatic progress in reversing the trends in any one year, even the 40th anniversary year. We shall, however, persevere over the next few years in promoting practical and cumulative reform of those parts of the system which are not performing effectively. It is never easy to convince governments of the need for change in advance, rather than in the aftermath, of a convulsive shock to the UN system.

We are working to improve the effectiveness of the UN in the following ways:

- First, by supporting the Secretary-General in his unrelenting efforts to help solve difficult political problems around the world, such as in Cyprus, Iran/Iraq, Afghanistan and, most recently, the taking of hostages in Beirut. But his actions must support, and not be a substitute for, actions by the Security Council. We cannot accept the