



# communiqué

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## CANADA SUPPORTS UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS FUND

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced a \$150,000 contribution from the Government of Canada to the newly-established United Nations Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights. Mr. Clark, who is currently attending the opening of the General Assembly, presented the cheque to the Secretary-General of the United Nations today.

The new Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights will be administered by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, located in Geneva. It will organize seminars, workshops and training courses, as well as provide fellowships, expert advisors and related equipment and supplies. In all of these activities, the Fund will respond to official requests from developing countries. "The \$150,000 voluntary contribution to the United Nations Fund is a concrete demonstration of our commitment to human rights around the world", said Mr. Clark.

In international organizations, Canada has consistently played an active role in developing greater respect for fundamental human rights. Canada has served four three-year terms on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights -- 1963-65, 1976-78, 1979-81 and 1982-84. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights is responsible for preparing international declarations and conventions on civil liberties, the status of women, freedom of information and other matters relating to human rights.