



CANADA

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## CANADA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD OF TODAY

*The following is a statement made on September 24 in the general debate of the United Nations General Assembly by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin:*

...It is the judgement of my country and my Government that this Assembly is one of the greatest importance not only for the peace of the world but for the continued successful operation of the United Nations, and certainly at this time, in this century. We in this room today represent governments pledged to the principles of the Charter, governments capable of decisions and actions which could change the course of human history. It is with a sense of both our opportunity and the dangers that will flow from failures to take advantage of this opportunity that I would like to discuss, at this start of the twentieth session of the General Assembly, some of the problems which I regard and my Government regards as being of uppermost consideration at the moment, so I propose to direct my attention to five of the major problems facing the world at the present time — the dispute over Kashmir, the war in Vietnam, the maintenance and strengthening of the peace-keeping and peace-building capacity of the United Nations, disarmament and the containment of the nuclear threat and, finally, means of maintaining the momentum of the international assault on poverty, ignorance and disease....

The conflicts with which we are faced in Asia at this moment differ in important and obvious respects. Their most significant common characteristic is that either situation could widen the area of conflict and create danger of spreading war in Asia and beyond. The elimination of that risk is the supreme task of the international community, the

supreme opportunity that lies before this body now; and that is the view not only of my Government but of the vast majority of the people of my country....

### KASHMIR PROBLEM

The news that the cease-fire between India and Pakistan has come into effect has been received with profound relief throughout the world, and nowhere more so than in my own country. During the previous seven weeks the Canadian Government and the Canadian people has been saddened and dismayed by the rapid intensification of this tragic conflict between two countries, partners in the Commonwealth, with which we have formed increasingly close bonds since they attained their independence. The Secretary-General, who in this matter has again served this organization with energy, imagination and wisdom, received widespread support for his first appeal for a cease-fire. The support that his appeal commanded was demonstrated by the readiness with which a number of world leaders offered their services to assist in bringing about the cease-fire. The Prime Minister of Canada — a well-known figure in this Assembly, a former President of this organization — was among those who offered his assistance, and I have his authority to say now that, should that assistance be desired by the parties in the search for a negotiated settlement, it will be forthcoming....

The cease-fire which has been achieved is, of course, the first and paramount necessity. The world can now breathe more easily, but the cease-fire, as we have been told by others at this podium, is not enough. The United Nations and the Indian and Pakistani Governments now have a new opportunity,

(Over)