

Canadian director of the PLO criticized Mr. Mulroney's comments, stating that it was "unfortunate that the Prime Minister [had] questioned the good faith and integrity of a Senate foreign relations committee which spent three years studying Canadian Middle East policy" (*The Citizen*, June 7).

## United Nations

### **40th Anniversary**

On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter, a joint appeal was issued by a group of member states to the UN Secretary-General for a "strengthening" of the UN (External Affairs communiqué, June 27). Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was joined by other heads of state as signatories to the appeal — from

Argentina, Austria, Jordan, Malaysia, Senegal, Sweden and Tanzania. The appeal reflected a desire to initiate a recommitment by all countries to the principles of the Charter and to make "concrete efforts" to strengthen the association. Among several recommendations made were:

- a call for the Security Council to "fully discharge" its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security (and to strictly monitor the implementation of its resolutions);
- a strengthening of the role of the Secretary-General in coordination with the Security Council;
- a clearer mandate (and sounder financing) for UN peacekeeping efforts;
- a greater effort in resolving through the UN international economic and social problems, in particular the development of a "new consensus for development."

# Policy

## Disarmament

### **Nuclear Winter**

Following the release of the Royal Society of Canada's report entitled "The Environmental Consequences of Nuclear War," External Affairs Minister Joe Clark stated the Canadian government's response to the Society's findings in the Commons June 17. Mr. Clark, while noting the uncertainties surrounding the nuclear winter hypothesis with regard to "magnitude and duration," stated that the government was in "general agreement" on the scientific credibility of the theory. (Nuclear winter involves the possibility of a global drop in temperature as a result of a nuclear exchange, whereby smoke and dust reduce the incoming energy of the sun.) The government agreed with recommendations of the Society that "continuing research" could reduce such uncertainties, adding that any Canadian studies should be "fully coordinated" with other international efforts. Mr. Clark noted that the long-term implications of the report necessitated a reexamination of Canada's civil defence planning in the areas of agriculture,

transportation, communication and general living conditions. Previously, the focus had been on "short-term survival." As well, the report reinforced the government's conviction that the "catastrophic" consequences of any nuclear war required increased international cooperation on deterring its initiation (External Affairs statement, June 27, *Globe and Mail*, July 15).

A controlled forest fire in the province of Ontario provided both Canadian and US scientists in mid-summer with an opportunity to study aspects of the nuclear winter theory (*Globe and Mail*, July 15). Ontario invited the scientists, both government and academic, to act as observers in taking "preliminary measurements" of smoke generation, the "missing link" in the nuclear winter hypothesis. Controlled fires, such as the one to be observed, result in smoke columns similar to those "expected" from nuclear firestorms. This, in turn, could provide information about the likelihood of smoke failing to disperse and blocking the sun.