

## INTRODUCTION

On October 24 of each year the world commemorates United Nations Day. In his 1977 message to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, D. Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, expressed Canada's concern for the United Nations and pledged renewed Canadian efforts to make the United Nations more effective. This letter serves as a good introduction to a review of Canada's participation at the Thirty-Second Session of the UN General Assembly.

On behalf of the Government and people of Canada, I wish to convey to you, and all the staff members of the United Nations and its affiliated organizations, our warmest wishes on the occasion of the thirty-second anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

In your report this year to the members of the United Nations you warned us of the danger that governments might lose confidence in international institutions if discussions within them fail to yield constructive results. You reminded us that it is easy to blame international institutions for shortcomings which are often the direct result of the conflicting policies or actions of governments, and urged us to demonstrate self-restraint and statesmanship.

Canada has taken your warning to heart. We have been concerned that if all the members do not join together to make the United Nations more effective, then the important decisions affecting the fate of mankind will be made elsewhere, and the United Nations will wither into insignificance. As one of the founder-members and major supporters of the Organization, Canada would regard such a development as a tragedy.

I can assure you that Canada will do everything it can to improve the United Nations' ability to fulfil the purposes set out in the Charter, which remain as fundamental for mankind as they were in 1945.