

This pragmatic approach was reaffirmed by the current Minister of External Affairs, Joe Clark, in his address to the 39th UN General Assembly on September 25, 1984. He stressed the fact that as a middle power Canada depended on multilateral as well bilateral mechanisms to promote its foreign policy.

Perez de Cuellar has been an active Secretary-General. He came close, behind the scenes, to resolving the Falklands/Malvinas crisis. He is constantly trying to increase his involvement to bring about an end to the Iran/Iraq war. Although he has obtained the agreement of the belligerents to cease attacks on civilian population centres, he continues to be frustrated by the diametrically opposite positions of Iran and Iraq, with neither willing to respond to international pressures. He has been using his good offices in many intractable situations such as Cyprus, Afghanistan and Kampuchea. He took a considerable risk in the autumn of 1983 by making a trip to South Africa to discuss Namibia, and he skillfully managed to retain his credibility with both sides.

Using the UN

The necessity for multilateralism in our interdependent world is obvious. The UN is the one universal institution we have; it is absolutely essential that it work. In this period of adjustment what is needed is a new consensus or understanding of the *de facto* power relationships in the world. Power blocs must realize that their interests are best served when the system works. Otherwise, chaos and disaster are the likely consequences. □