

Mr. President,

It is with particular pleasure that I congratulate you and your country, Zambia, on your election as President of this 39th session of the General Assembly. You have worked closely with Canadians since the start of your long years of dedication to the United Nations. We also value the many links between Zambia and Canada, one of the most rewarding being our shared membership in the Commonwealth. It was an enriching experience for me to visit Zambia for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in 1979.

I would also like to welcome Brunei, another fellow member of the Commonwealth, as the 159th member of the United Nations.

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Eight days ago, the Progressive Conservative Government of Canada assumed office. It is appropriate that the first major foreign policy statement outside Canada by our new Government should be here at the United Nations. Like all countries, we have urgent problems at home, and we are determined to face them. But the basic reality of Canada is that we are open to the world. Our economy responds to the international economy. Our population comes from, and connects with, all continents and nations. The name of our capital city, Ottawa, is drawn from the Algonquin Indian word "a meeting place", and our history is that of a community where different cultures and contesting interests can meet together. Ever since we have been a sovereign nation, our governments and our people have tried to put our talents to work for the world. We shall continue in that spirit.

Canada was active at the creation of this United Nations, and successive Canadian Governments, formed by different parties, have consistently helped this Organization to meet its most difficult challenges. I come to this podium in the tradition of Howard Green of Canada, who struggled to achieve a Partial Test Ban Treaty, as a first step toward a comprehensive Test Ban; in the tradition of Lester Pearson, who inspired the concept of peacekeeping; and in the tradition of Paul Martin who helped to end the logjam which prevented the admission of new member states in the U.N.'s early years. Canadians are proud of having contributed to the solution of problems such as these.

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