

News Release

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FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today released copy of his letter to His Excellency Javier de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the occasion of the forty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

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Canada

The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, P.C., M.P.
Secretary of State for External Affairs



Canada

Le très hon. Joe Clark, C.P., député
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures

OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0G2

October 24, 1990

Excellency:

Allow me to extend to you, on behalf of the Government and people of Canada, sincere best wishes on the occasion of the forty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The United Nations, and indeed the world, are now at a historic juncture. An era of sterile ideological competition is behind us, and the United Nations is demonstrating that it can promote the peaceful settlement of disputes and respond to threats to peace and security in the manner intended by its creators.

We can also celebrate the fact that peoples in every part of the globe are seizing the opportunity to advance democratic processes and institutions. It is Canada's declared policy to assist them in every way it can. We also believe that the United Nations should actively cooperate with and support the work of regional organizations and individual countries in their efforts to strengthen democracy.

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His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters
New York, New York, 10017
U.S.A.

Democratic development is indispensable to the evolving structure of co-operative security, to which I referred in my October 24 statement to the General Assembly. Just as indispensable, however, are social and economic development, and a healthy global environment. We are faced with a wide variety of challenges: air, soil and water pollution; population growth; disease; drugs; arms control and disarmament; human rights; and the critical issue of women in development.

These issues can only, or best, be addressed at the global level; either because they are themselves global in nature, or because they can be effectively dealt with only if the international community acts together. It is therefore in all our interests that the United Nations be strengthened as it addresses these problems.

The opportunity is before us to usher in a new era of international peace and cooperation. We are faced with danger of equal moment, however, if the international community fails to remain united against such challenges as the blatant aggression of Iraq against Kuwait. The successful implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on this issue might not be quickly or easily achieved, but they must be accomplished - not only for the sake of that one country, but for the common good of all.

Let me assure you of Canada's determination to support the United Nations in meeting both the challenges and opportunities of the 1990s.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

