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EXTÉRIEURES.

MESSAGE FROM THE  
HONOURABLE ALLAN J. MACEachEN,  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS,  
JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR,  
ON THE OCCASION OF UNITED  
NATIONS DAY,  
OCTOBER 24, 1983

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Deputy Prime Minister  
Secretary of State for External Affairs



Premier ministre  
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures

OTTAWA, K1A 0G2

October 21, 1983

His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar,  
Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
New York.

Excellency,

I have the honour on behalf of the Government and people of Canada, to convey to you and through you to the international staff of the United Nations system, our warmest wishes on the occasion of the thirty-eighth anniversary on October 24 of the founding of the United Nations.

Among the many observances of U.N. Day across Canada will be the presentation of the Pearson Peace Medal by Governor General Schreyer to the Right Reverend Georges Henri Lévesque. Father Lévesque was the founder and early organizer (1963-71) of the National University of Rwanda, and is now its Honorary President among many other international honours. Previously he was the founder and first Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Canada's Laval University, and is well known as the "father of Quebec's Quiet Revolution" in the early 1960s. The Pearson Peace Medal is sponsored by the United Nations Association in Canada, which continues to develop the interest and support of Canadians toward the United Nations through its conferences, seminars and information activities. In recognition of its success in this endeavour, my Department is doubling its grant to the Association over four years beginning this year.

U.N. Day also marks the beginning of Disarmament Week throughout the world. At this time of international tension, the observances in Canada will reflect Canadians' deep concern about the arms race and the vital need for success in arms control and disarmament negotiations which we are actively seeking to advance. We have, for example, just launched a \$1 million annual program of research,

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training and international liaison in the field of arms control and disarmament verification. Disarmament Week will also be an occasion to ponder anew the origins of the United Nations, on the ashes of the unrestrained expression of national self-interest, when "We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war..."

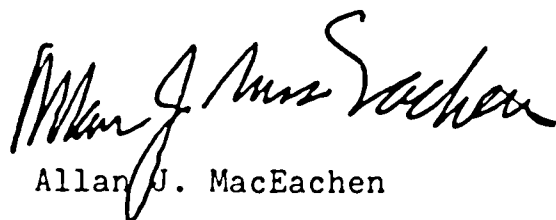
The United Nations Charter enshrines many of the highest ideals of humanity. Despite their manifestly imperfect implementation, these ideals have not changed, but remain as valid today as they were when they were formulated. The United Nations can work, and can be made to work more effectively if we, its members, want it to do so. This was the theme of my address to the General Assembly, in which I suggested several modest but practical ways for strengthening the working partnership between your position and the Security Council.

Let us not forget either the successes of the United Nations. The unsung hard work, day in and day out, of the specialized agencies and other parts of the U.N. system, has brought about many valuable accomplishments, for example the elimination of smallpox worldwide. The peace has been kept in several troubled regions, providing time for the indispensable process of negotiating lasting settlements of disputes. The slow but steady development of international law, and of human rights instruments since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 35th anniversary of which we will soon celebrate, has made the world a safer place for both countries and individuals. These positive developments should encourage us to overcome the difficulties we face today.

Prime Minister Trudeau was very pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with you recently, as I was earlier this year. We applaud your determination to address and redress the shortcomings of the United Nations, and to strengthen in practical ways the U.N.'s ability to meet the economic and political challenges of our times.

On behalf of all Canadians, I wish to assure you that, in your continuing endeavours to strengthen the United Nations, you can count on Canada's unwavering support.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Allan J. MacEachen