



CANADA

COMMUNIQUÉ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SEPTEMBER 23, 1974

VISIT OF MR. ENRIQUE PENALOSA,  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF HABITAT:  
THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Department of External Affairs announces the visit to Canada of Mr. Enrique Penalosa, Secretary-General of HABITAT: The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements which will be held in Vancouver in June, 1976.

The population of the world is expected to reach 6.5 billion within the next three decades. This growth will bring problems in many areas, but the problems in human settlements will be compounded by the rapid urbanization which is occurring in all nations. The effect on urban areas will be almost explosive, and governments must plan now if they are to cope successfully with the physical and social problems which will arise. There is general agreement that nations should share their experiences as they seek solutions.

At the Stockholm Conference on the Environment HABITAT was conceived as a Conference where such national solutions could be presented, discussed and compared, to the benefit of all. The organization of this Conference with its orientation towards the interchange of experience on practical and realizable projects will call for great efforts from the Secretary-General and his staff. Canada, as host nation, will be cooperating fully with the Secretariat to ensure the success of the Conference.

To carry out the host responsibilities of the Government of Canada, a Host Secretariat has been established within the Department of External Affairs. Executive responsibility for the national hosting arrangements rests with this Secretariat, which has a management organization covering installations, communications, conference services,

design development and public affairs. Host Secretariat liaison officers are now active in the United Nations Secretariat in New York and in Vancouver. The Government of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver are also fully involved in the hosting function, and a Host Committee with representation from the three levels of government meets periodically in Vancouver, and has formed a number of sub-committees to advise on various aspects of the hosting of the Conference.

Canada's own participation in HABITAT is being organized by a Secretariat established in the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs. Officials of that Ministry will be holding discussions with Mr. Penalosa on the planning for Canada's contribution to the substance of the Conference. The Secretary-General will also meet with members of the National Committee which has been established to advise the Government on Canada's participation. While in Vancouver, Mr. Penalosa will meet with members of the Host Committee, including representatives of the British Columbia Government and the City of Vancouver, and will visit the proposed site of HABITAT.