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STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY
OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE
D'ÉTAT AUX
AFFAIRES
EXTÉRIEURES.

UNITED NATIONS' DAY
MESSAGE BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
DR. MARK MACGUIGAN,
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
DR. KURT WALDHEIM,
OCTOBER 24, 1980

The Secretary of State for External Affairs



Canada

Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

K1A 0G2

October 24, 1980.

My dear Secretary-General,

On behalf of the Government and people of Canada, it is my pleasure to convey to you, and through you to the staff members of the United Nations and its affiliated organizations, our warmest wishes on the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

Canada is deeply honoured that, as part of the celebration of U.N. Day, our National Arts Centre Orchestra has the privilege of performing a concert for the General Assembly. This event, which Prime Minister Trudeau is attending, symbolizes and reaffirms the high esteem in which Canadians hold the United Nations and the inspiring principles for which it stands.

Here in Canada, among many other observances of U.N. Day across the country, Governor General Edward Schreyer has presented the Pearson Peace Medal to Dr. J. King Gordon on behalf of the U.N. Association in Canada. Dr. Gordon, a past president of the Association, served for twelve years in the U.N. Secretariat, notably as Secretary-General Hammarskjold's director of information on the Congo peace-keeping operation.

The designation of the coming week as one "devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament" is fast becoming a tradition. The Government of Canada and numerous voluntary groups will be highlighting the efforts of the United Nations in pursuit of this goal. Much serious work has been invested this year, and despite an unfavourable political climate some progress has been made, most recently in the just-concluded

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His Excellency Dr. Kurt Waldheim,
Secretary-General of the United Nations,
United Nations Headquarters,
NEW YORK.

weapons conference. And yet after thirty-five years - half the traditional reckoning of the human lifespan - we are still far from the true disarmament envisaged in the U.N. Charter. Only when this is achieved will our lives, our children's lives and indeed all life on earth be secure. I wish to reaffirm our dedication to this aim, and that we will continue to contribute actively to the negotiation of multilateral disarmament agreements within the framework of the United Nations. To this end, Canada recently named Mr. A. R. Menzies as the first Ambassador for Disarmament, and he is now participating in the General Assembly's deliberations.

The hopes of Canadians are with you, Mr. Secretary-General, in your tireless efforts to ameliorate the conflicts which continue to plague the world. We take heart from your recent success in restarting the intercommunal negotiations on Cyprus. We pray that your endeavours to end the fighting between Iran and Iraq, and in Southeast Asia, may also be rewarded. Such activities are a fine example of what I termed the principal task of the United Nations in my address to the General Assembly: namely to channel the impact of change into constructive directions.

The situation of millions of refugees and displaced persons in many areas of the world is one which demands a coordinated international response. We have appreciated your efforts to encourage member states to recognize their responsibilities to respond to the humanitarian needs of the individuals concerned, and to address the root causes of such situations. We look forward to the development of procedures to ensure more effective coordination and implementation of international humanitarian assistance efforts in these situations. We recognize furthermore the important role which you yourself are able to play in using your good offices to establish contact with governments at an early stage in serious human rights situations including those involving massive refugee outflows.

The central topic of concern of the United Nations this year, the North/South dialogue, is directly related to all the others. The future of all mankind depends on its successful pursuit. Certainly there cannot be real and lasting security or human dignity in the world as long as there is global poverty and economic injustice. Change is necessary, and we have both the opportunity and the obligation to guide it in a positive direction. Canada looks to the General Assembly to complete at this session, the unfinished business of the eleventh special session, by adopting the International Development Strategy for the 1980s and launching the Global Negotiations for international economic cooperation. We are

determined to play our part, as indicated unmistakably in my recent statement announcing Canada's intention to increase our official development assistance to a level of one-half per cent of gross national product by the mid-1980s, and to employ our best efforts to reach the objective of 0.7 per cent of GNP by the end of the decade. Canada will continue to contribute actively to the search for solutions, for example at the various summits envisaged for next year, one of which we will host. I am very pleased to have already had the opportunity to meet with you to review our common concerns in this area, and look forward to doing so again.

I pledge our cooperation to work with you, Mr. Secretary-General, in the furtherance of the aims of the United Nations Charter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mark MacGuigan', written in dark ink.

Mark MacGuigan