

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 23, 1981



# 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,  
THE HONOURABLE MARK MACGUIGAN,  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS,  
DR. KURT WALDHEIM,  
OCTOBER 23, 1981

---



OTTAWA, Ontario

KLA OG2

October 21, 1981

Dear Mr. 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-sixth anniversary on October 24 of the founding of the United Nations.

United Nations Day this year takes on an additional dimension with the recent award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, for the second time in a generation. This honour, which Canadians applaud, exemplifies the continuing role of the United Nations in promoting peace and alleviating human distress through practical international co-operation beyond what any one country could achieve.

Here in Canada, where U.N. Day follows soon after our national day of thanksgiving, we are thankful that the world has been spared any major new conflict this year. Among many other observances of U.N. Day across the country, Governor General Edward Schreyer is to present the Pearson Peace Medal to Lieutenant-General E.L.M. Burns on behalf of the U.N. Association in Canada. General Burns, a past president of the Association and Canada's principal Disarmament negotiator in the 1960's, is perhaps best remembered as the first commander of the U.N. Emergency Force from 1956 to 1959. This award to Canada's most renowned peacekeeper is indeed a fitting way to mark the 25th anniversary of the first U.N. peacekeeping force.

.....2

His Excellency Dr. Kurt Waldheim  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
United Nations  
New York

The commemoration of Disarmament Week beginning with U.N. Day is a sobering reminder that much remains to be done in preparation for the second U.N. Special Session on Disarmament next spring. A number of voluntary groups in Canada, with the assistance of the government, will be highlighting during the week the efforts of the United Nations in pursuit of this goal. As you have underlined, the public must be actively interested in current negotiations if they are to produce results. Among our endeavours toward this end is the recent publication of UNSSOD II and Canada, the regular publication of a disarmament bulletin, and the meeting of a consultative group of non-governmental organizations chaired by the Ambassador for Disarmament.

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to meet with you a month ago in New York, and I appreciated your kind remarks on my address to the General Assembly. Much of what I said has found expression in your actions, and I can only commend your tireless efforts of the last ten years to lead the United Nations in the cause of international peace and cooperation.

On behalf of all Canadians, I wish to reaffirm our continued collaboration in the furtherance of the aims of the United Nations Charter.

Yours sincerely,



Mark MacGuigan