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MESSAGE FROM THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
TO HIS EXCELLENCY
JAVIER PÉREZ DE CUÉLLAR,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS,
ON THE OCCASION OF
UNITED NATIONS DAY.

NOVEMBER 1, 1984

The following is the text of a message sent by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the UN Secretary-General, His Excellency Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, on the occasion of United Nations Day, October 24, 1984:

"Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of Canada, it is my pleasure to convey to you, and to all those associated with the UN family of organizations, our warmest wishes on the occasion of the thirty-ninth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

The new government of which I am a member is committed wholeheartedly to support and strengthen the United Nations. As I stated in my address to the General Assembly on 25 September, the UN has enjoyed wide public support in Canada since 1945 and this support has found expression in the foreign policy of all postwar Canadian Governments. Our decision to appoint two prominent public figures, Stephen Lewis as Permanent Representative in New York and Douglas Roche as Ambassador for Disarmament, underscores the importance we attach to the UN and the principles it represents.

In your most recent Annual Report on the work of the organization, you asked why there has been a retreat from internationalism and multilateralism and you called on politicians, diplomats and thinkers around the world to

consider this problem. My Government shares your concern and we shall be examining ways in which the UN can more effectively meet the challenges and dangers posed by this disturbing trend. The United Nations Association of Canada has responded by organizing a colloquium on the theme of strengthening the UN, to be held this Friday, October 26. It will bring together some thirty-five prominent Canadians closely associated with the United Nations and they will be joined by your distinguished colleague Robert Muller, Assistant Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs. The conclusions of the colloquium will constitute an important contribution to the review of Canadian foreign policy, which is to take place early in the life of this government.

You will, I am sure, be interested to know that the Pearson Peace Medal this year will be awarded by the Governor-General to Dr. George Ignatieff, C.C., Chancellor of the University of Toronto. Dr. Ignatieff's long public career has been distinguished particularly by his association with the United Nations as Canada's Permanent Representative to the UN in both New York and Geneva and as our former Ambassador for Disarmament.

As 1985 draws near, we are looking forward to celebrating the UN's fortieth anniversary. Your anticipated visit to Canada next year will be the highlight of our commemoration of the anniversary and you will receive a warm welcome. We are also planning next year to publish a study of Canada's participation in the United Nations during the last ten years, to supplement a previous work, "Canada and the United Nations 1945-75". While undoubtedly of interest as a historical record, I anticipate that it may be even more important in making the UN and Canada's participation in the organization better known among Canadians.

I was very glad to have the opportunity to call on you in New York on 25 September and I look forward to meeting you and working with you on future occasions. Meanwhile, I wish to assure you of Canada's support of your efforts to overcome the problems confronting the United Nations and multilateralism at this critical time.

Accept, Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration."