

OCTOBER 24, 1975



# STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY  
OF STATE  
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AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE  
D'ÉTAT AUX  
AFFAIRES  
EXTÉRIEURES.

MESSAGE FROM THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE  
HONOURABLE ALLAN J.  
MACÉACHEN, TO MR. KURT  
WALDHEIM, SECRETARY-  
GENERAL TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS, NEW YORK,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FOUNDING OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS, OCTOBER 24, 1975.

OTTAWA,  
October 24, 1975.

Mr. Kurt Waldheim,  
Secretary-General to the United Nations,  
United Nations Plaza,  
New York.

My dear Secretary-General,

On behalf of the Government and people of Canada, I wish to convey to you and to all the staff members of the United Nations and its affiliated organizations, warmest wishes on the occasion of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. We are indeed indebted to you and all others throughout the United Nations System, who by steadfast and dedicated efforts strive to achieve the aims envisaged thirty years ago. It is with a sense of pride in the U.N.'s past accomplishments and of confidence in its future, that Canada looks this day to the world organization.

At the time of its conception and establishment thirty years ago, the United Nations reflected the values and realities of a world emerging from the shock of a tragic war. In 1945 the world hungered for peace: the 51 countries gathered in San Francisco were determined to establish a new and dynamic system of international relations based on justice and equality rather than power and exploitation. International relations have evolved considerably in the intervening thirty years but the hopes of 1945 have still not been fully met. Nevertheless, the United Nations has successfully risen to many of the challenges that the intervening years have placed before it. Indeed, the Canadian Government and people firmly believe that the successes of the UN have far outweighed its shortcomings and that its continued good health is indispensable to the well-being of the world community. We therefore hope and expect that progress will continue to be made towards the goals and ideals of its founders.

One of the greatest achievements of the UN during its first three decades has been its constructive role in the process of decolonization. The many new nations that have emerged in this period now play a full part in the activities of the United Nations. Their role is one that they themselves

are defining; a process of definition which involves major adjustments by the older nations of the world. It is indeed this inter-action and the very interdependence of the modern world that makes the UN essential to us all.

For all the people in developing countries who benefit by the UN's many assistance programmes, the United Nations is however, much more than a forum for multilateral diplomacy. Rather, it is cherished as a symbol of hope for a better life in the near future. At no time has its role been more central than at this point in the evolution of the world economic order. In facilitating this evolution, one of the greatest strengths of the United Nations, of course, lies in the major contributions of the Specialized Agencies to international co-operation and development.

A major, but perhaps insufficiently appreciated contribution of the United Nations to a stable and equitable world order has been the progress made in the development of International Law. New and flexible techniques have been developed within the United Nations framework which supplement and accelerate the customary law-making process. The United Nations thus plays a vital role in the negotiation of law-making treaties, laying down binding legal obligations in many fields of human activities, often reflecting new concepts responding to contemporary imperatives, as in the case of the law of the sea. Principles of international law are thus developed, crystallized and accepted in a remarkably short space of time through the law-making activities of the United Nations.

On the occasion of United Nations Day, 1975, Mr. Secretary-General, it gives the Government and people of Canada great pleasure to recall with pride the role Canada has been able to play in the affairs of the United Nations - in the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, in peacekeeping operations, in the Specialized Agencies and in the global conferences that grapple with the problems affecting the very survival of mankind.

I am pleased, therefore, at the beginning of the United Nations fourth decade to reaffirm Canada's dedication to the ideals and principles expressed in the Charter and Canada's support for the world Organization in its efforts to embody those principles in action.

Yours sincerely,

Allan J. MacEachen