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SPECIAL MEETINGS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

Text of Statement by the Canadian Secretary of State  
for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin.

It may be remembered that two years ago I had suggested that, with so many Foreign Ministers at the United Nations during the first part of the General Assembly, advantage should be taken to have them meet in order to discuss the important issues that were facing all the countries at that time.

The Secretary-General has urged that this be done at this General Assembly. I want strongly to support the proposal.

It should be noted that most Foreign Ministers attend the General Assembly for a few weeks only. Most of them make statements in the initial debate. But apart from some bilateral discussions there is no discussion on **between them** as a body on contentious issues.

There are some vital issues facing the world at this time. These issues cannot be bypassed by the United Nations. I would hope that Foreign Ministers would have an opportunity at this session of giving effect to the proposal now being put forward by the Secretary-General.

