

Mr. President,

Canada is also encouraged by the desire of African nations to take the lead in finding solutions to the famine. They have acknowledged the prime responsibility for their own development and have courageously shouldered the onerous burden of coping with the large scale of the disaster. We congratulate the Organization of African Unity for establishing a Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa. We are pleased by the adoption at the last General Assembly of the Declaration on Africa. We are also encouraged by the realism demonstrated by the just completed meeting in Addis Ababa of the 41st session of the CAU's Council of Ministers. There is recognition among African leaders that the solutions to the famine must be viewed in the long term perspective as well as short term and that adjustment of domestic policies which have been ineffective or inappropriate is as essential as the provision of more financial assistance.

In our united fight in this war on famine, Canada asks Africans to take another indispensable step. We plead with all sides who are engaged in internal conflict to take steps to allow aid to go through to the victims. We also call for borders which have been closed to be opened so essential aid can be delivered to affected neighbours.

Finally, Mr. President, Canada is encouraged by the response of the ordinary citizen who has heard the cries of help from his neighbour in our global village. In this, the International Year of Youth, it is worth mentioning how young people have contributed to the victims of the famine, whether through their own fund raising efforts or their support for benefit records. Canada believes that special efforts must be taken to encourage and nurture the generous outpouring of assistance from individuals and groups. There must be a recognition that all governments face budgetary restraints and cannot do everything. The dynamism of the private sector and the voluntary contributions of non-governmental organizations, communities, groups and individuals must be acknowledged and tapped.

Mr. President,

I now turn to what Canada has done and intends to do. The message of Canadians and their government is