

the future, however, we should be able to identify those issues which, if left unattended, could develop into crisis proportions.

Men and women have been unwise and short-sighted in their occupation of this planet. Through greed or ignorance or indifference, or a combination of all three, the human race finds itself increasingly out of balance and out of harmony with the habitat on which it depends for survival. We are poisoning our atmosphere and our oceans at an alarming rate; we are exploiting our resources as if they were inexhaustible; we are coping ineffectively with the task of providing food and shelter to millions; we remain incapable of occupying the earth peacefully with one another, or of sharing equitably the means required by every individual to permit him to lead a life of dignity. The resolution of these long-standing problems is beyond our means in the next week.

Nevertheless, I am confident that, through wise consultations and actions now, those problems can be better understood and circumscribed, the future can be made more wholesome and more attractive for the inhabitants of all our countries. I consider the worth of our meeting to be found in the opportunity it provides for that kind of consultation.