

An Aboriginal elder, speaking to a Canadian Government Commission, said it best: "we did not inherit the earth -- we only hold it in trust for our children".

Mr. President, in a world where rivers and winds cannot be contained by laws or borders, it is clear that domestic initiatives by themselves are inadequate. Canadians know this.

Our economy as well as our environment is damaged by acid rain. We have taken important internal measures to address the problem. We have urgently pressed our neighbor to follow suit and to conclude a treaty with us that will reduce the environmental damage from this blight by stated amounts within specific time frames.

But acid rain is not limited to one nation or one continent. It is an international problem, and it demands a viable international solution. The greenhouse effect, the deterioration of the ozone layer and the disposal of toxic wastes are cause for concern the world over. I am encouraged by the strong emphasis given to the environment by others in this year's debate. Strengthened international cooperation is essential, and the U.N. has a key role to play.

As with security issues, important action has been initiated:

- o the signature a year ago in Montreal of the protocol on the protection of the ozone layer is a landmark example of what nations working together can accomplish.

I urge all states which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the protocol without delay.

- o The increasingly urgent question of global warming and climate change received serious attention at the International Conference on the Changing Atmosphere in Toronto last June.

Our goal should be an International Framework Convention for the Protection of the Atmosphere by 1992.

We applaud the work of the United Nations Environment Program in developing a global convention on the trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes. We hope it will be ready for signature next year.