

of its people, we are now awakening to our shared responsibility.

But recognizing a moral obligation and letting our actions be guided by that obligation are elements as different as oil and water. It is my hope that the path identified by Habitat will be followed, that we take those first steps that mark the beginning of this long journey and that we will not falter nor be deterred.

Habitat, because of its focus, has become a crucial element in terms of human settlements and when I speak of human settlements I mean that in the broadest sense.

The fact that the nations of the world should agree to turn their collective attention to the conditions of human settlements is a watershed in the history of our life on this earth. It is my belief that shelter is a collective responsibility: collective in terms of the relationships between government and man, government and government and man and man. No single partner bears the full weight. Each has his own share of responsibility.

As I see it - as I define the delicate partnership between government and the individual - governments, both singly and collectively, must strive to provide the elements that promote adequate shelter. It is our job to create the elements of tenure for the individual - and those elements will differ from nation to nation, from place to place. In some nations this will mean the simple basics of human settlement; first water, a cornerstone of life in any community, and then an adequate system for the disposal of wastes. As simple as those two goals may seem to some individuals and, even to some governments, they are of critical importance to many of us.

It is difficult for citizens of industrialized nations to envision settlements without water supply or sewage disposal systems. It is a thought as foreign to them as the experience of true poverty. If Habitat achieved any single function, I believe that it served to enlighten the world about the true condition of human settlement on this planet.

Habitat was a catalyst for discussion and decision-making on both an international and national level. It followed in the best traditions of this body and dealt with an area of basic concern to every member of this United Nations. Now, however, we are faced with the problem of how best to implement and utilize the benefits of Habitat. It is my earnest wish that the advances we have made should not be left to wither on the vines of indifference.