

Bringing open conflicts to an end is only one part of the United Nations role, of course. We have stressed the necessity of dealing with underlying causes and of strengthening the ability of the United Nations to act decisively at an earlier stage in conciliation, and also as soon as local conditions make peace-keeping intervention essential.

In the field of disarmament, we have not allowed the obvious difficulties impeding rapid accomplishment of general disarmament to deter us from trying to make progress with various collateral measures which could lessen tension and create confidence. Canada has worked with other Western and unaligned nations to introduce measures limiting the spread of nuclear weapons, stopping all test explosions and finding methods of verifying explosions.

On the basis of our own experience in all United Nations peace-keeping operations and of our recent initiative in stimulating study of the technical problems involved, we have stressed before the Assembly a number of principles concerning the costs of such operations and the respective responsibilities of the Security Council and the General Assembly. We have insisted that progress in this field was obligatory if members were to live up to the commitments they had undertaken in signing the Charter.

Finally, our response to our global obligations must include action on a broad front in the field of economic development. The Canadian statement expressed concern at the widening gap between the per capita incomes of the developing and developed countries and called for resolute action by members, collectively and individually, to increase the flow of development assistance. We have ourselves doubled our bilateral aid programme last year and we expect to increase it again this year. In addition to programmes already under way in Colombo Plan countries and in other Commonwealth and French-speaking African states, we have now made more funds available for development in Latin America and we expect to join the Asian Development Bank.

In speaking of this international assault on poverty, ignorance, disease and injustice, I know that I can count on the sympathy of Canadians. How many people have arrived here in the course of our history seeking relief from these very conditions! How much hard work and hardship have been necessary to make our land flourish! Our relations with the rest of the world must always take into account the economic and social facts of great concern to the developing countries.

But there are other causes, too, which move us because of our own experience, our own deepest convictions and the rich cultural fabric of our nations.

In speaking to the General Assembly I emphasized these convictions to the delegates of other nations in these words:

"We cannot, however, concentrate only on material progress as if this were the only key to human welfare. The dignity and unique value of the human spirit are even more fundamental and can flourish only under conditions of equality and freedom.