

opmental assistance. Are you suggesting the exact opposite—that good times aren't going to return until we do open up to the developing world?

Head: This, indeed is the message of the Brandt Report and of other very respected economists in the world. They argue that way, not simply from a position of moral stature, but from hard headed statistical evidence that they claim can support their thesis. The other fact, of course, is that some of these changes that have to take place go beyond the transfer of resources that we have in the past unfortunately called 'foreign aid'. Some of these other issues can be dealt with without the expenditure of funds and this may be an opportunity to do that. But we really are the authors of our own misapprehensions on all of this. We've tended all too often in the past to regard developmental programs as foreign aid, and we look upon it, therefore, from the point of view of charity. Charity, as we all know, begins at home. So long as there are nearby problems, then why should we worry about these admittedly desperate people in far away countries of the world? In reality, of course, we are doing little to add to the dignity of those persons if they believe that our only interest in them is in giving them a hand when there is something left over, and not dealing with their problems in the fundamental way that they deserve.

I.P.: I was going to ask you what you felt was at stake, was it really the survival of mankind or what that the rhetoric of enthusiasts. I don't have to ask that—you have already answered it—you think that the survival of mankind is at stake.

Head: Yes.

I.P.: Are you hopeful or not?

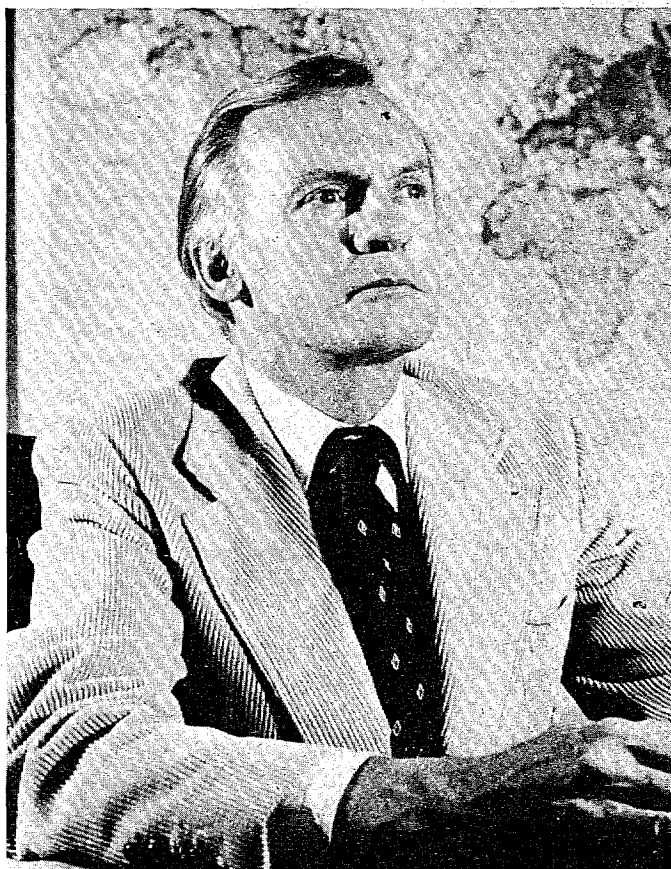
Head: I must say that I have always regarded myself as an optimist and I hope that I continue to do so, but the confidence that I once held in the ability of the human race to understand its problems and come to grips with them has lessened considerably in the past twelve months. Annually, I'm asked to give the opening address to the National Defence College and to offer what I regard as the state of the world in which we all live. The conclusion of my opening address during the September term of 1980 was considerably more pessimistic than it was in 1979. To a large degree that was because of the Brandt Report which offers us, not only the argument for doing something, but indicates the desperate condition that we'll find ourselves in if we don't do anything. Perhaps I'm a bit depressed because of the grossly inadequate attention that has been paid to this report by communicators, politicians and others. One of the activities at IDRC and those of us acting personally, although identified with IDRC, is to increase the awareness of these arguments. The game is far from over—the final score is far from in—but the Brandt Commission points out quite convincingly that while wars can bring about conditions of poverty and degradation, equally, conditions of poverty and degradation

can lead to war. With arsenals of nuclear weapons the stakes are very high indeed and we do not, any longer, possess the margin for error that was once available to mankind.

I.P.: One last, very brief point. I'm sure that we can find political will in Canada to pressure other governments, but can we find the political will in Canada to do what we have to do?

Head: I very much hope so. If the argument is made simply on a sharing basis we might not. But if the argument is put, as I think all sound arguments are, that it is in our interest; that there is an interdependence; that there is a global nature to this community; that we will suffer if these issues are not addressed and not satisfactorily dealt then we can, indeed, muster that political will. Whether I'm an optimist in the final analysis, or a pessimist, I think we have no alternative but to continue working with as much industriousness as we can bring to bear towards the attainment of that political will.

I.P.: Thank you.



“... conditions of poverty and degradation can lead to war.”