

international consciousness, cultural development, economic development, and the respect for those values that form the basis of our perception of the world.

The UN was created by man, and is therefore fragile. For this reason, I do not believe that it is completely appropriate to talk about celebrating one particular anniversary of the UN; rather, we must celebrate its existence every day, for it is threatened every day, and it must be protected every day.

Since 1945, we have all recognized the threat presented by catastrophic weapons of war. That threat goes beyond our individual concerns as peoples and nations. It commands the attention of all; it calls for urgent action by the entire international community.

Mr. President, 40 years ago, the Charter called on the world "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". Today, we struggle to save life from nuclear apocalypse. We have some cause for hope. In their meeting next month in Geneva, President Reagan and Secretary-General Gorbachev may set us on the road to a significant reduction in the arsenals of both sides. To diminish the spectre of annihilation, the superpowers must reach for an agreement — but the responsibility is not theirs alone.

All of us, through international forums and treaties, have a role to play in arms reduction. We must reinforce negotiations for verifiable disarmament accords on testing and weaponry, both conventional and nuclear. Individually and collectively, we must all do our part. Progress is possible. The recent successful review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty gives credence to that.

Canadians recognize that there is no greater goal, no more compelling duty than the quest for peace. We shall not rest until our security can be assured without tens of thousands of nuclear weapons. Above all, we shall not rest until we have secured the future for our children.

Mr. President, 40 years ago, the peoples of the world were united in the hope that human rights could become subject to universal standards. Forty years later, some countries apply these standards only in part, and a few — sadly — hardly at all. In this respect, South Africa stands alone.

Only one country has established colour as the hallmark of systematic inequality and repression. Only South Africa determines the fundamental human rights of individuals and groups within its society by this heinous method of classification. This institutionalized contempt for justice and dignity desecrates international standards of morality and arouses universal revulsion. That is why, at our meeting in Nassau just concluded, Commonwealth leaders agreed on a course of common action against South Africa.

And the crescendo of pressure is having an impact. Already, the opposition of the business community to *apartheid* is unprecedented. The combination of internal dissent and external condemnation is obviously taking its toll on the government. The Mandelas, the Tutus, the Boesaks will one day prevail.

It is our hope — and it must surely be the hope of all — that bloodshed and violence will cease in the transition to a free and democratic society. It is our hope — as it must surely be the hope of all — that the Republic of South Africa will come to its senses before it is completely engulfed by the shockwaves of violence.