

We in Canada do not believe we have the time to wait. On March 6 the Canadian and provincial governments agreed to proceed with a reinforced sulphur dioxide abatement program moving from 25% commitment to a 50% reduction in emissions by 1994. These additional measures will reduce the areas being damaged in Canada.

Regrettably, the transboundary nature of the problem means that many areas would remain inadequately protected even if we were to cease emissions altogether, until the United States takes similar action. We cannot reverse the acidification and destruction of our lakes and forests single-handedly. International cooperation is not just an ideal, it is an indispensable and mountingy urgent necessity. I will be presenting this view to Mr. Shultz when I meet him in Washington in April.

We must continue also to support and give impetus to the sometimes tentative but always creditable cooperation achieved in international organizations. I am delighted to see the representative from the Economic Commission for Europe, Mr. Clemente Lopez-Polo, for it was in the ECE that this spirit of cooperation created the Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution Agreement which this conference has as its base. I salute as well the work of the OECD and of UNEP.

All major nations of this world signed the Stockholm Declaration. We proclaimed in this declaration that we all have, and I quote, "the responsibility to ensure that activities within our jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states" unquote.

Our task here, as at Munich in June, is to affirm before the world our commitment to this principle, and to urge other nations to join us in this reaffirmation.

This commitment we speak of is to something much more than mere scientific or technical understanding of the problems. It is part of a much greater commitment to the advance of civilized behaviour, to the comity of nations itself.

The challenge for us is to exercise leadership in pursuit of economic development in a manner that demonstrates responsibility for stewardship of the environment - the maintenance of environmental health is not an obstacle to development but an integral part of economic life.

Best wishes for your deliberations.