

I said earlier that we were realistic and pragmatic in our expectations for the outcome of this conference. I believe that if the consensus holds, if the conference ratifies the draft program and budget along the lines of this set of actions, and if the next biennium unfolds in this direction, UNESCO's future will be more assured.

The Director General and the Secretariat have been helpful and co-operative in facilitating change. They have provided the executive board with a solid foundation on which to base its recommendations. The 23 C/5 represents a massive improvement over previous 23 C/5s, for example. The Director General and his staff merit our congratulations.

I am sure that the public scrutiny of the past few years and the internal turmoil to which the organization has been subject have been wrenching. The drive to efficiency and economy, after all, means doing more with less. The Canadian government, and I would venture most governments, is faced with the compelling need to reduce the size of our bureaucracy and maintain or enhance the effectiveness of our programs. This is a world-wide phenomenon and the multilateral system cannot remain unaffected.

But it is not enough to place all the responsibility for reform of UNESCO on the board, the Director General and the Secretariat. It is the member states which are UNESCO — which run UNESCO — and it is for us to take the hard decisions. This means accelerated co-operation among and across all the regional groups. It means that moderation and good sense must prevail. This in turn requires compromise and the realization that 1985 — this conference — is the beginning of what must be a long but steady process towards revitalization.

Nonetheless, 1985 is a critical year in the evolution of our organization. Reform cannot not be achieved overnight. Nevertheless, several governments — including my own — have stated that they will review their status in UNESCO following this meeting in Sofia, after the results can be analyzed and conclusions drawn.

The fact is that the end of 1985 is a make or break period. Either the current crisis will be defused and the way cleared for substantial reform on which to build further — or the crisis will deepen. The compromise resolution which the board has asked conference delegates to ratify is a considerable achievement. This conference must now take the decision as to whether it represents a sufficient start towards genuine reform, pointing the way to further improvements during the next two years.

Many countries, East and West, North and South, take the view that major program 13 on human rights, and to a lesser degree, major program 3 on communications, are key indicators of success. Need I say that the large majority of UNESCO activities are very worthwhile — although some are not administered as efficiently as we would like. They essentially carry on without controversy. The politicized issues relate to only a few programs but these assume an importance disproportionate to their cost. The structure and content of parts of programs 3 and 13 have thus been the object of great attention, by member states and by the media.

For our part, we are encouraged that the divisiveness of the debate over a new world information and

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