

means nurturing their environment while they are young and surrounding them with a community of values which opens their minds and hearts to the needs of their fellow humans throughout the world.

As a measure of this opening to the needs of others, I am happy to inform this distinguished audience that one of the outstanding projects of IYC in Canada is about to take place. On October 22, at 7 p.m. a CBC/Radio Canada television special will show young people across Canada how man's survival on our shrinking planet requires a new spirit of cooperation and collaboration. Entitled "Why Should I Care" this project, sponsored by the Canadian Red Cross and the UNICEF Committee of Canada, has also prepared audio-visual kits for 285,000 teachers and 6 million students. Two days later, on World United Nations Day, every school in Canada will focus on international understanding and development issues. This project, the largest educational one ever funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, aims to make Canadian children aware of the cultures and conditions of the other children on "Spaceship Earth".

Surely the International Year of the Child will have no global benefits unless it galvanizes our attention on the 350 million children in developing countries who do not have access to even the minimum of health services, nutrition and education. These children -- and their children -- cannot achieve the rights we proclaim for them unless the conditions of absolute poverty are wiped out. Compassion for a suffering child is empty unless accompanied by a determination to establish conditions of economic and social justice to grow up in.

To guarantee a child freedom from hunger means guaranteeing at least one of his parents a job and a decent wage. To guarantee a child fresh air and clean water requires a degree of international cooperation not yet attained. A child's right to affection and security is mocked by those who perpetuate violence, those who enslave him in child labour, those who commit vast sums of money to elitist development when the human needs are so great. Recognizing that we cannot banish overnight all the evils that invade childhood. Let us at least end the International Year of the Child resolute in our commitment to respond to the physical, spiritual, emotional, and cultural needs of children in every region of the world.

As we make decisions in our own countries and in this international body, let us respond favourably to these questions: "What do children need for their optimal development?" "What do parents require to help them meet these needs?" "What public policies are needed to enhance family life?"