

gain. Security is the touchstone, and again, the reality is that each nation will judge its own security on its own terms.

I mean security in its broadest sense - not just military strength. The sense of economic and social well-being is an important factor in a nation's overall security. Seen in this light, development can make a major contribution to overcoming non-military threats. It can contribute to the establishment of a stable international system that will, in its turn, reduce the relative importance of military strength as an instrument of security.

It is fitting that, at the request of the general assembly, this conference is being held under UN auspices. It was, of course, the United Nations that pioneered the study of the linkage between disarmament and development. The 3-year study by 27 experts, headed by Inga Thorsson, inspired this conference. The Canadian Government commissioned a popular version of that study, entitled: "Safe and Sound: Disarmament and Development in the Eighties".

From the time of its establishment in the devastating wake of the Second World War, the United Nations has been dedicated to four key principles:

- Freedom from the scourge of war;
- Faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person;
- respect for international obligations;
- and the promotion of social progress and better living standards.

Our success in upholding these principles depends in large measure on the degree of commitment of individual Member-States to the disarmament and development processes. Indeed, our success in pursuing these objectives can mean the difference between a decent quality of life and deprivation, poverty or even death.

Canadians hope that this conference will rekindle the flagging political will upon which real progress depends.

Our goal should be to issue a consensus statement at the end. It will be a lost opportunity if we do not