

propose to direct my attention to five of the major problems facing the world at the present time -- the dispute over Kashmir, the war in Vietnam, the maintenance and strengthening of the peace-keeping and peace-building capacity of the United Nations, disarmament and the containment of the nuclear threat and, finally, means of maintaining the momentum of the international assault on poverty, ignorance and disease.

I would begin by saying that, in my Government's view, the primary concern of the General Assembly must be with the disputes which at this moment are disturbing international relations with incalculable consequences for world peace. It is a sobering reflection that 20 years after the foundation of an organization intended to establish and maintain peace and security, we should have been confronted with wars tragic in their reality and alarming in their implications.

How can we devote the attention which we all want to apply to economic and social developments and to the promotion of fruitful international co-operation when before us is the appalling spectacle of death and waste in war? Our spectrum of anxiety is world wide, for war in any region of the world is an affront to our insistence on peace and a challenge to our crusade for collective security and human betterment.

Are we in danger, I ask, of forgetting the harsh lessons of the past? How many times have we heard it proclaimed, here and elsewhere, that war must no longer be an instrument of national policy? Pressures and temptations exist to breach this high principle: temptations to extend an area of influence or to intervene in the internal affairs of other nations, even to seek to obtain an objective by use of force.

The conflicts with which we are faced in Asia at this moment differ in important and obvious respects. Their most significant common characteristic is that either situation could widen the area of conflict and create danger of spreading war in Asia and beyond. The elimination of that risk is the supreme task of the international community, the supreme opportunity that lies before this body now; and that is the view not only of my Government but of the vast majority of the people of my country.

I turn now to the events which have gripped the world's attention in recent weeks: the conflict between two close friends of Canada -- India and Pakistan.

The news that the cease-fire between India and Pakistan has come into effect has been received with profound relief throughout the world, and nowhere more so than in my own country. During the previous seven weeks the Canadian Government and the Canadian people had been saddened and dismayed by the rapid intensification of this tragic conflict between two countries, partners in the Commonwealth, with which we have formed increasingly close bonds since they attained their independence. The Secretary-General, who in this matter has again served this organization with energy, imagination and wisdom, received widespread support for his first appeal for a cease-fire. The support that his appeal commanded was demonstrated by the readiness with which a number of world leaders offered their services to assist in bringing about a cease-fire. The Prime Minister of Canada -- a well-known figure in