

the UN General Assembly on a yearly basis. There will clearly be data and information on individual countries, what they have done internally and the nature of the international response. It will be possible, in other words, for us to know where it goes right and where it goes wrong.

"That is what the UN is all about. That is what it does best. That is its essential legitimacy. In all the other areas I have enumerated there is frustration, immobility, impatience and sometimes failure. That is in the nature of the organization and, much more broadly put, it is endemic to the international polarization which bedevils this world. But when it comes to responding to economic and social issues, the United Nations is still and will, I suspect, continue to be an indispensable organization.

"And the beauty of it for Canada is that it precisely meets our own priorities and our own instincts. It was not lost on the United Nations that Canada had one of the highest per capita responses in the Western world to the famine. It was not lost on the United Nations that David MacDonald with his exemplary crew of colleagues fashioned one of the most imaginative responses to the famine and indeed served as a model for some aspects of the UN program. It was not lost on the United Nations that Madame Vézina came and announced the debt moratorium, for which there was a spontaneous burst of applause offered no other country during the course of these five days; and indeed there was resounding applause at the end, because of the countries feeling good or expectant about these grass roots projects and village programming that might flow from the suggestions that were in her statement. And then, by a matter of good fortune, we were involved in the fashioning of the document.

"So that for Canada it was absolutely the right relationship that speaks to everything we are as a country. It speaks to generosity; it speaks to planning; it speaks to principle; and it speaks to enduring commitment. It speaks, in other words, to a belief in multilateral institutions, from which belief we will not be deterred however difficult the obstacles."