

today is prepared to make a full contribution to help the efforts of the developing countries. We are efficient and economical producers of needed foodstuffs and essential raw materials. We also have on hand the technology and scientific know-how of modern industry. To the extent that we are able to do so, we shall place these resources at the disposal of developing countries in the form of economic assistance, through United Nations programmes and through our own bilateral programmes.

Certain other features of our Canadian experience may give us an appreciation of the needs and problems of developing countries. Through our Commonwealth associations we have for many years cooperated closely with countries in Asia, Africa and elsewhere which are at various stages of economic development. We have become acquainted with their people and their leaders. Because of our bilingual heritage -- we have English and French as our official languages in Canada -- we have a special advantage both in our United Nations associations and also in our relationships with developing countries where these languages are used. We look forward to extending these relationships in coming years.

The challenges of the Development Decade are great and urgent. Generations to come would not forgive us if we failed at this time to ensure that the international institutions which we have created during the past two decades are strong and effective. The recent relaxation of international political tensions presents an opportunity which we must not miss to seek to strengthen the authority of the United Nations family of Specialized Agencies and institutions which are working to further economic and social progress. In saying this, I am of course fully conscious of the solid achievements already gained, and of the constructive steps which have been taken this year to improve the effectiveness of the international institutions.

The distinguished Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, when he spoke to us, referred to a number of notable achievements, such as the United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology, the Conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy