

learned that nations act most effectively in concert, and are active supporters of multilateral organizations and initiatives. That has been demonstrated dramatically this year, when Canada hosted the summits of la Francophonie and the Commonwealth last fall, and will preside over the Economic Summit of the seven major industrial democracies in June in Toronto. So we are committed multilateralists. We are particularly convinced of the importance of United Nations agencies - they allow us to attack together problems which are too large for any one country to resolve alone. Too often their work is taken for granted.

The work of the World Health Organization has eradicated smallpox. Perhaps as a result, it has become the focal point of the global response to the Aids pandemic.

UNICEF, working with the World Health Organization, has set 1990 as the target to achieve universal immunization against the six major child-killing diseases; measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio and tuberculosis.

The UN provides auspices for peacekeeping where otherwise none might exist. Canada alone has 834 persons deployed in these peacekeeping forces under UN auspices, and another 131 Canadians in the Sinai Multinational Force.

The UN has been the catalyst of world awareness of the particular problems facing this continent. A year and a half ago, the Secretary General appointed Canada's representative at the UN, Stephen Lewis, as his Special Advisor for Africa. Ambassador Lewis has taken up the promotion of African interests with enthusiasm and vigor, while also being an eloquent advocate of the continent on matters such as humanitarian and emergency assistance, the serious economic problems that Africa is facing, and the major issues of structural adjustment and their social implications.

Because the United Nations is so important, it must be effective. In December 1986, with full Canadian encouragement, the General Assembly adopted the reform recommendations presented by an expert group chaired by the Norwegian Ambassador. The Committee on Program Coordination has been re-structured to deal better with UN management and budget issues. ECOSOC has begun rationalizing relations among the approximately 150 bodies which report to it. Old prejudices have finally been broken by the appointment of outstanding women to positions as Deputy Secretary General. Action has been taken to cut expenditures. For example, two-thirds of the targets for personnel reductions have been achieved.