

Out of the process of intergovernmental cooperation and public involvement, there is emerging in Canada the recognition that future settlement policies must emphasize the reduction of waste and the importance of conservation: conservation of energy, of prime agricultural land, and of the natural and the built environment. To illustrate this point, I should like, before commenting on the international aspects of our Conference, to show a capsule version of one of our audio-visual presentations that is particularly concerned with new and more environmentally appropriate designs for Canadian human settlements.

Canada will examine sympathetically and constructively the various programmes for international action which will be provisionally endorsed for further consideration and definition within the United Nations system.

At this time I would wish only to mention four aspects of international cooperation in the field of human settlements to which Canada attaches particular importance:

First, we will be prepared to respond favourably, through our bilateral aid and cooperation programmes, to proposals for assistance in the field of human settlements from our partners in these programmes. In addition, we shall use our influence within the multilateral development agencies to encourage a similarly positive response from them. We think that existing bilateral and multilateral financing institutions should be ready and willing to participate in expanded human settlement programmes.

Second, we see particular merit in the proposal to establish regional training centres for those who must plan and manage settlements. For some years now, Canada has supported the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok and its Faculty for Human Settlements. We consider that this programme deserves continuing support and, indeed, that it might become a model for similar programmes in other regions.

And third, Mr. President, we are also particularly interested in the proposal to establish an international information programme to continue and to further develop the exchange of ideas and experience which will take place here at HABITAT. We think it important that the Conference recommend the creation of a United Nations Audio-Visual Library on human settlements and consider it a matter of some urgency that interim arrangements be made for the preservation and use of the valuable material prepared for HABITAT.

Fourth, we anticipate that the Conference will have before it a proposal that all nations adopt as a minimum target the provision of potable water in every definable community by 1986. Canada will lend strong support in principle to such a target and to practical programmes to achieve it.