

The General Assembly did however offer a forum for expressing the thoughts and aspirations of the less developed countries. It also offered an opportunity for the industrialized countries to express their views and analyses of what was required to re-establish some sort of order and stability in the world trade and payments system. Some of the ideas put forward by the less developed countries seemed far-fetched and impractical at first sight. But experience shows that the unacceptable of today becomes the doctrine of tomorrow.

There is a need to balance on a global basis the requirements of industrialized and less developed countries, of exporters and importers, categories which are by no means clear cut. The classic lines of division have become blurred. Canada's situation is a case in point. We are an industrialized nation and also a raw materials producer. We sympathize through our own experience, with the concepts of national sovereignty over natural resources; of control of development on the basis of our own national priorities; of national guidelines for international enterprises operating in our country.

Most of the positions put forward at the Special Session will be looked at in detail elsewhere in the coming months. One point, however, emerged as a clear consensus at the meeting. There was unanimity on the need for emergency assistance for those countries hardest hit by the sharp rise in oil prices. These are mainly the countries with large populations, few exportable resources and insufficient capacity to feed themselves. At the Special Session, Canada, for its part, announced among other aid and relief measures, a special \$100 million allocation, mainly in the form of food and fertilizers for the countries whose balance of payments had been most severely affected.

The next element of this merging pattern of essential tasks that lie ahead, will be the meeting in Bucharest in August of the World Population Conference. This subject, full of emotion and sensitivities, is nonetheless a fundamental one. The question confronting us with increasing immediacy is: How many human beings can the earth support? The Bucharest Conference will not give the final answer but it will be another step in the process of thinking of our future in world-wide terms.

The month of November will see the convocation in Rome of a World Food Conference under the aegis of FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization). Here we will be talking of survival in the simplest and most direct forms. You who have worked with UNICEF over the years will know exactly what I mean.

Apart from the dislocation of the trade and payments system that stems in large measure from human decisions, or lack of them, the situation in a number of African countries on the fringes of the Sahara Desert has reached catastrophic proportions as a result of drought. In some parts of this region, the Sahel, there has been no rain, or virtually none for a number of years. This year, the expected annual rains did not come to other areas of the central African region, particularly toward the east, in Ethiopia and Tanzania.

Canada has already contributed generously to the international relief measures arising from the drought. Some \$14 million have been made available by Canada through various international programmes. But giving relief, while essential, is not enough. How is the encroaching desert to