

Mr. President,

May I first congratulate you on your appointment as President of this very important international conference. I offer my personal support for the serious task ahead of you and my sincere best wishes for a successful outcome.

We are not discussing a theoretical problem. Ten days ago, I was briefly in Mozambique where I met, among others, Canadians involved in non-governmental organizations operating clinics and other projects in that country. They face every day the prospect that the projects on which they are working - development projects of the finest kind - will be bombed or attacked. They face the dilemma that projects launched to help people in need in fact make those people targets of attack. I am not here arguing that arms create that conflict; but, certainly, when a clinic becomes a target, arms are the enemy of development.

Let me begin my remarks by noting, as Canada usually does, that the test of this conference will be what we do, not what we say. There is rhetoric enough on the evil of arms and the need for development. What we must seek to achieve here is practical cooperation, not mutual recrimination. The work of the preparatory meetings has been encouraging, but that atmosphere must continue if we are to protect the principle which Canada assumes all participants share - namely, that less money must be spent on arms, and more money must be spent on development. The relevant question is how do we make progress, not whom do we blame.

Our purpose is to increase real security, for individual nations, and for the world. Progress toward development, and progress toward disarmament, can both contribute to that security, but their relationship is not simple. This conference can be most useful if it probes beneath the assumption that there can be an automatic transfer of funds from arms to development. We must understand why governments spend on arms - and understand also that there is simply no evidence - no reason to believe - that governments are likely to disarm, at the expense of what they consider their security, in order to divert funds to development. If we are serious, the reality we must recognize is that the level of a nation's security is the main criterion against which efforts for disarmament must be measured, not the level of economic