

law is no easy objective. Yet the United Nations - with its many forums for dialogue - offers a milieu in which ideological opposites can speak to each other, however obliquely, and contribute to the reduction of tension. In the field of peace and security the achievement of the U.N. is no less real because it must be measured in negatives: there has been no global war in 42 years, and there has been constant pressure to contain and foreshorten regional conflicts wherever they arose.

The second of the three is development. I hardly need outline our national commitment to international development a group such as yourselves. audience. I will only say that our commitment includes significant contributions of resources - both human and otherwise - to the development programmes of the United Nations. The value of these programmes is by and large unchallenged, and the U.N. has earned enormous and well-deserved credit for its development efforts. The only serious criticism which might be levelled would be that duplication within the system continues to exist, but this is a management issue which I will address at greater length shortly.

Which brings us to the third subject, human rights. Concern for human rights remains a cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy. A Special Joint Parliamentary Committee on Canada's International Relations expressed the view last year that "the promotion of human rights is a vital and natural expression not only of Canadian values but also of universal values to which all governments, like individuals, are subject." The United Nations' record in this field can best be characterized as uneven. Special rapporteurs have been appointed in a few important or prominent cases. The fact-finding and conciliation processes of the organization have been reinforced. But many human rights violations have been allowed to pass unnoticed. Efforts to address them have foundered on the shoals of political double standards or against the cliffs of national sovereignty. Canada would like to see greater progress in this area and will be working hard to this end.

But let me return to the umbrella theme to your discussions: the United Nations at work. In recent years, harsh criticism of the United Nations - both in the General Assembly and in the Specialized Agencies - produced what the Secretary General chose to describe as a crisis of multilateralism. The implication was that the United Nations system did not work. Fortunately, most member states believe that the U.N. can be effective and therefore remains essential, if sorely in need of self-examination and renewal.

That renewal can be considered at three levels: at the superficial level of managing the crisis and correcting its immediate causes; at the deeper level of diagnosing the problem and seeking more permanent solutions; and at the level of