

Despite recent setbacks, the record of Third World development is in many regards impressive. In human terms, life expectancy has risen, infant mortality has fallen and literacy has increased significantly. Developing countries' growth has outstripped that of the industrialized countries since 1960, and their share of world trade has increased significantly. Middle-income developing countries can tap private banking and equity investment sources for most of their external financing needs.

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But the undeniable progress that has been made has not resolved the desperate plight of a large group of low-income and least-developed countries. More than 700 million people are living in conditions of inhuman poverty; of these, more than 450 million are seriously undernourished and some 15 million children die each year for want of food or basic care. Ethiopia is the most tragic example, but there are others. For many of these countries, high population growth rates, frequently a characteristic of underdevelopment, make it practically impossible to plan for adequate nutrition, health care, education or jobs.

If projected rates of growth materialize, the world's population could increase by several hundred million before the end of the century. It will continue to grow beyond the year 2000. Ninety percent of this growth will occur in the world's poorest countries. In many of these countries,

- population already exceeds the carrying capacity of the immediate area,
- food production is not keeping pace,
- agricultural soils are eroding,
- forests are disappearing, and with them the wood fuel on which a quarter of mankind depends for energy,
- regional water shortages are becoming more severe, and
- desert-like conditions are spreading at an accelerated rate.

Further famines are probable.

Structural and political issues are equally important. Many countries lack the appropriate technology, human resources and institutions needed for development, and their cultural and political approaches tend to complicate or inhibit economic and social development. There is growing recognition of the need for fundamental economic policy change. Even the least developed countries are increasingly acknowledging that they have to put their own houses in order. This is itself a positive and essential step if long-term development is to be placed on a sound basis.

## THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND SECURITY SYSTEM

The Second World War was mankind's worst self-imposed tragedy. Fifty million people died and vast areas of Europe and Asia were left in ruins. In response, Canadian statesmen joined with their counterparts in other countries to try once again to construct an international political and security system — based on respect for the rule of law in international relations, a framework for universal collective security and a concerted assault on the economic roots of conflict. The centrepiece of the political and security system was the United Nations; its success would depend on its members keeping their promise, under the U.N. Charter of 1945, to settle their disputes by peaceful means. Members would have to cede to the Security Council the authority to take enforcement action "with respect to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of

*The success of the U.N. depended on its members keeping their promise ... Regrettably, the promise was not fully kept.*