

set our house in order.

Before we can expect the United Nations to develop into an organization which is capable of playing a larger and more effective role in the solution of international problems, it is necessary to place the United Nations on a firm financial foundation. This cannot be accomplished until the arrears of over \$100 million are liquidated. Within recent months a number of members have demonstrated their support for the Organization by fulfilling their financial obligations, and this action will no doubt encourage others to do likewise. Furthermore the Canadian Delegation hopes that as a result of the adoption of Resolution 1877 at the Fourth Special Session a further improvement will be evident within the next few months, particularly as to those members who were anxious to request the Secretary-General to consult with member governments to work out arrangements, within the letter and the spirit of the Charter, for the liquidation of their arrears as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, the problem of arrears is not confined to the United Nations Regular Budget and the peacekeeping accounts, but also is evident in the budgets of the specialized agencies and in the voluntary contributions pledged to certain United Nations programmes. In some cases this problem is caused solely by delays in the settlement of accounts -- delays that are avoidable. Perhaps to stimulate action with regard to the liquidation of arrears it would be helpful if, in a single document, data could be provided on the outstanding amounts owed by Member States to the various United Nations accounts, both assessed and voluntary, and to the relevant accounts of the specialized agencies.

During a period of financial crisis there seems to be a tendency to advance novel, ad hoc and sometimes unrealistic solutions to basic problems instead of concentrating on the real issues. Perhaps this is human nature, but such expedients usually do not offer practical answers and tend to create more problems than they solve. We must recognize that the continued effectiveness of the United Nations depends on the willingness of governments to pay their share of the Organization's expenses. Few governments agree completely with each item in the Budget.