

ideal of international co-operation to achieve common goals, must help to stimulate the international effort required to overcome world hunger and poverty through development.

This evening, I propose to speak briefly about the contribution being made to international development by the United Nations and its associated agencies, and of the support which Canada is giving to this aspect of United Nations activities.

During the first years of the United Nations, the most pressing concern of member states was, quite naturally, the prevention of another war. Peace and security provisions were carefully spelled out in the Charter, but the passages relating to economic development were less clear. Nevertheless, the foundations were laid for an active United Nations role in economic development, to achieve the conditions necessary for peace.

There was, for example, provision in the Charter for a special organ of the United Nations -- the Economic and Social Council -- which would be primarily responsible for United Nations activities in the economic field. In addition, a number of Specialized Agencies were created, or associated with the United Nations system: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and others.

As more and more countries gained independence and became members of the United Nations, the organization underwent a fundamental change. The leaders of the newly-independent member states looked to the United Nations for assistance in achieving economic development, to make their political independence more stable and meaningful. The United Nations has responded by undertaking responsibilities in the development field, to a degree quite unforeseen when the Charter was drafted.

The magnitude of the United Nations commitment to international development at the present time is revealed by a single statistic: four-fifths of the financial and manpower resources available to the United Nations system are now being applied to development questions.

The extent to which the United Nations would be called on to concern itself with international economic development only became fully apparent in 1964, with the holding of the first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, now known everywhere as UNCTAD. At that Conference, 77 member states of the United Nations, well over half the total membership, were united by their common poverty in putting the world on notice that a greater international effort to achieve development was required.

Although the organization established at the first UNCTAD conference has been in operation for less than three years, it has already proved of major value in focusing world attention, as never before, on the host of problems which must be squarely faced if we are to succeed in the great task of raising