

World in a context as realistic as it is reflective of a broad range of policy concerns. In this country we are still just emerging from extremely difficult economic times into a very tough international environment—an environment where a high degree of competition and of national self-preoccupation are bound to continue for a long time. Even considering the good will of Canadians, even considering the generosity that expressed itself in the African famine, there is some danger that the simple impulse of altruism might be lost in our collective concern over how strong Canada is, over how well we can compete with this country or with that.

What I hope the review will do is to reinforce for us all the reality that the developing world interests are in fact our interests. The paper makes it a point of emphasizing the complex linkages among issues such as Third World debt, that Mexican debt which costs jobs in Canada, to issues like interest rates, like budgetary deficits and general economic and trade performance in the industrialized nations. Making the international system work better for the Third World is not just a moral imperative, it is a practical necessity for all nations, bound together through that system into a web of mutual dependancy. I think that members of the Catholic Women's League, concerned as you will be at this convention with the theme of world peace and aware as you are of the vital relationship between development and peace, will appreciate the point I want to make.

I think the review will bring out the specific point that our collective capacity to do better in development programs depends critically on doing better ourselves in the market place. To be able to afford any expanding programs in our quality of life, in our projection of our assistance abroad for overseas development, we simply have to perform better economically here at home. We have to become competitive.

We have to earn the resources that we would apply to our altruistic ends. We have to concentrate on those economic sectors where we have the greatest potential for success in rapidly changing, highly competitive international circumstances. That can mean, among other things, structural adjustment out of sectors where developing nations have a greater advantage. It also means, of course, resisting the protectionism that increasingly threatens our own capacity to sell to the people of the world.