

I am most happy to have this opportunity of speaking to this recently re-established branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. In the last few years, Canadians have been taking a much greater interest in Canada's foreign policy and the whole range of our activities abroad.

I welcome this development. It stems, I think, from a greater awareness of just how much Canada is affected by events abroad and by policies of other countries and also how much our livelihood, the achievement of our national social and economic goals, and our security depend on our external trade and on a whole range of international co-operative and consultative mechanisms both bilateral and multilateral. You as members of the C.I.I.A. understand this, and your informed interest is of great value and assistance to myself, and to the government, in the policy making process.

Perhaps at least as important is your role in assisting to make this public awareness deeper, more precise and more informed.

A recent example of the valuable work the C.I.I.A. is doing to assist the government in formulating policy is the series of meetings throughout Canada, organized in conjunction with two other interested groups, in order to obtain public comment and reaction on which to base Canada's approach to the forthcoming conference in Bucharest in August on world population questions. I expect to have the report of this survey in the next days.

The theme I have chosen for my talk to you this evening is the forthcoming Law of the Sea Conference, which will begin next month in Caracas. This conference is perhaps the single most important international meeting to take place in many years. Behind the legal codification of a new international régime for the territorial sea, the continental shelf and the areas of the sea and seabed beyond these, lie all the great problems of global co-operation and organization on which our very survival on this planet depends.

I have mentioned the World Population Conference in August where for the first time will be examined the implications of the tremendous growth of the world's population during this century and especially since the Second World War. A related conference, on world food problems, will take place in Rome in November. The United Nations Special Session on resources that has just concluded looked at the problem of food and other raw materials from another view point: the impact on development of the disruption of the international trade and monetary system due to the recent sharp increases in the prices of a number of commodities, especially oil.

All these conferences are concerned with one fundamental problem: the growing pressure of demand on the finite resources of this world. At the forthcoming conference on the Law of the Sea, an attempt will be made for the first time to regulate and divide equitably the resources, both living and mineral, of a huge area of the earth. The seas and oceans occupy about 70% of the earth's surface. Its riches and its limitations are only beginning to be understood. But already the limitations, the finiteness of the seas living resources and of its absorptive capacity for pollutants, have become all too apparent.