

- (e) Fifthly, resource conservation will be one of the key factors shaping future Canadian human settlements. We are terribly concerned with the urban despoilation of some of Canada's best farmland. This resource is irreplaceable and requires a more responsible stewardship, and we are determined to rehabilitate our existing built environment. Canadians have learned that the costs of indiscriminate demolition and redevelopment are too heavy both in economic and in human terms.

We are also beginning to recognize how better settlement design can effect major reductions in our rate of energy consumption. Energy conservation in human settlements will have to play the major role in achieving my government's target of reducing the annual growth in Canada's energy consumption from its current 5.5% to 3.5% by 1985. We will have to achieve better insulation standards; put more reliance on renewable forms of energy; perhaps adopt more compact forms of urban settlement, and thus reduce our dependence on the automobile for city transportation; and encourage innovation in housing construction. As evidence of our preoccupation with this question, Canada will, in October 1977, host a seminar under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe which will deal specifically with the question of energy conservation and the planning and development of human settlements.

- (f) The Canadian government wishes, in the context of HABITAT, to underline the special needs, aspirations and rights of our indigenous population. Many aspects of the distinctive cultures and life styles of Canada's native peoples, such as a strong attachment to the land and its resources, the sharing of community wealth, and a strong sense of community life are particularly relevant to the concerns of HABITAT. Canada has provided support to allow its native groups to develop political strength and to articulate their grievances and their aspirations. Our respect for the traditions, culture, and special needs of Canada's native people does not imply any restrictions in the freedom of individuals to participate fully in Canadian society.
- (g) Finally, we believe that it is highly desirable, indeed essential, to involve the business community, citizen groups and the public at large in the planning and implementation of human settlement policies. The ultimate test of whether our human settlements are good is whether they are congenial to those who live in them.