

economies in the former Soviet republics. But it will require co-operation of all those countries under the auspices of the United Nations.

Fortunately, there have been some recent encouraging signs. For example, during the 46th General Assembly in New York this fall, a successful initiative was concluded that guarantees more effective UN responses to human-made and natural disasters.

The chairman of the committee that carried out this difficult task, Sweden's UN Ambassador, Jan Eliasson, has just been named the United Nations Emergency Relief Co-ordinator.

In this new post, Ambassador Eliasson will have at his disposal a revolving fund of \$50 million to help ensure that the UN is able to respond in a more timely and effective fashion whenever grave humanitarian crises arise.

On January 15, I announced, together with Monique Landry, the Minister for External Relations and International Development, a contribution of \$2.5 million to this fund. Canada was proud to be among the first countries to announce a contribution, and we will continue to work to ensure the fund's success.

However, solving the more fundamental economic and social problems of the world will require more than \$50 million or even \$50 billion. In addition to financial resources, it will require sound and consistent government policies and pragmatic international co-operation.

The UN must find a constructive role in the economic/developmental sphere or face increasing marginalization of a growing number of nations -- its own member nations.

The UN must also address the continuing questions of human rights. And Canada can be proud of its record in ensuring that consideration of this issue, both at the General Assembly and in the Commission on Human Rights, has produced positive results. Particular cases of abuse have been identified, and rapporteurs have been dispatched when on-the-spot investigations were necessary.

The UN must also, in particular, intensify its efforts to achieve equality for women -- an essential component of human rights. Canada will continue to take a leading role in the elimination of discrimination against women through advocacy within the Commission on the Status of Women and at the General Assembly.

Canada's active encouragement of democratic development -- a key objective of our foreign policy -- through the loan of electoral officials and observers plus human rights monitors to those countries building or re-constructing democratic traditions, will work in concert with the UN's overall efforts to promote universal respect for human rights.

Peacekeeping, arms control, protection of the environment, the addressing of fundamental economic and social inequities, the