

is limited by two realities, the terms of the Charter and the will of the member nations.

We do not here constitute a supranational authority. I do not believe that the world is ready for such an authority — for any kind of world government. Today, most of the nations of the world, older and newer equally, are preoccupied with internal problems. Certainly Canada is no exception. Canada is facing internal problems both economic and political. Canada believes that domestic problems are best dealt with by domestic solutions, and others feel the same way. The question is, how can the international community best assist in a situation where an internal problem has got beyond the capacity of the government concerned? The mere fact that the nations are preoccupied with internal problems and questions of sovereignty in the foreseeable future does not excuse us from making the best possible use of the instrument we have, the United Nations.

It can and should move promptly and effectively, as it has often done, to ameliorate human suffering and protect, to the extent possible, the innocent non-combatants that often bear most of the suffering. This is a noble end in itself, and can be a means toward the settlement of a conflict by creating a better and a saner atmosphere.

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#### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Turning to the second great universal problem, how to preserve a natural environment that will continue to support life on earth, the United Nations has recognized its global nature by setting up a conference on the environment to be held in Stockholm next year, with a distinguished Canadian public servant, Maurice Strong, as Secretary-General.

Canada has a special interest in environmental questions if only because we occupy such a large part of the earth's surface. Despite its vast extent and relatively small population, Canada has serious air- and water-pollution problems of its own. It also, inevitably, is a recipient of the pollution of others through the Great Lakes system and oil spills on its coastlines, to name only two examples. This is why Canada is concerned about the inadequacy of existing international law relating to the preservation of the environment in general and the marine environment in particular.

Canada is working toward the development of an adequate body of law in this field. At the national level, the Canadian Government has adopted laws for the protection of fisheries from the discharge or deposit of wastes, for the prevention of pollution disasters in Canada's territorial waters and fishing zones, and for the preservation of the delicate ecological balance of the Arctic. At the twenty-fifth General Assembly, and last month in a resolution jointly submitted with Norway to the Preparatory Committee for the Third Law of the Sea Conference, Canada invited other states to take similar measures at the national level to prevent and control marine

pollution, as a move toward the development of effective international arrangements.

Canada is working towards a multilateral treaty régime on safety of navigation and the prevention of pollution in Arctic waters with other countries having special responsibilities in the Arctic region.

In a wider multilateral context, Canada is participating actively in the preparations for the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, the IMCO Conference on Marine Pollution and the Third Law of the Sea Conference. These three conferences, taken together, present a unique opportunity for the development of a comprehensive system of international environmental law. As the first and widest-ranging of the three, the Stockholm conference will be of particular importance in helping states to come to grips with the apparent conflict between environmental preservation on the one hand and economic development on the other.

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Technology has now reached a stage where the industrialization needed for economic development need not disturb the environment to an unacceptable extent, and it is by no means the rule that an ecologically sound industrial or other project must be more costly than one that is not. With far-sighted planning and careful attention to design and ecological considerations, there need be little or no added cost. The pollution befouling the Great Lakes system largely results from wasted opportunities, from dumping into the water by-products that in themselves have value if properly recovered. The Canadian Government is working with the Governments of the United States of America and of the American states and Canadian provinces bordering on the Great Lakes system, to establish water-quality standards, achieve them in the shortest possible time and see to it that they are maintained.

The discussions now going on between the various levels of government of Canada and the United States will set into motion a program for the rehabilitation and preservation of the Great Lakes which will cost billions of dollars and call upon vast human and technological resources. These astronomical expenses would not have been incurred had we and our neighbours been able to foresee and forestall the damage we have done to the largest fresh water system on earth.

I urge my friends in the developing nations to balance the costs of anti-pollution measures against the cost of pollution and the mindless waste of limited resources it so often represents....

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#### ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT

My third illustration of the universality of human problems is the whole field of arms control and disarmament.

...Canada firmly believes that until the People's Republic of China is playing its part in our deliberations here and in the detailed studies and negoti-