

THERE IS NOT A GAP, BUT A GULF BETWEEN THE COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND THOSE OF THE OTHER NATIONS.

IT WAS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THIS SITUATION THAT THE INSTIGATORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS DECIDED TO PLACE THE EMPHASIS NOT ON ARGUMENT OVER THEORIES BUT ON SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS. CANADA NOTES WITH SATISFACTION THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE PROCEDURE TO SELECT PROJECTS THAT THE MODEST RESOURCES OF THIS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM ARE SUPPOSED TO FINANCE.

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, WE MUST MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO CONVINCING THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES TO ALLOCATE A FAIR SHARE TO COMMUNICATIONS IN DEVELOPMENT, TAKING CARE TO RESPECT FULLY THE CULTURAL IDENTITIES INVOLVED.

LOOKING TOWARD THE NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE IN 1991, CANADA WILL STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF AGAIN SEEKING ELECTION TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS. IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE PREPARED TO EXAMINE CLOSELY SOME PARTICULARLY VALID PROJECTS IN THIS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE FEEL THAT UNESCO SHOULD BENEFIT SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE IMPROVED WORLD POLITICAL CLIMATE, BECAUSE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN PARTNERS NOW DIVESTED OF A PRIORI IDEOLOGIES ARE CONSIDERABLE. WE ALSO FEEL THAT UNESCO TODAY HAS THE OPPORTUNITY AS WELL AS THE OBLIGATION TO FULFILL ITS MISSION. THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS MEMBER STATES CANNOT PASSIVELY STAND BY WHEN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS ARE INADEQUATE, MINORITY CULTURES ARE BEING ERODED AND THE ENVIRONMENT IS BEING DESTROYED.

THIS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO MEAN THAT WE ARE CALLING FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF UNESCO INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, WHEN THOSE THAT ALREADY EXIST HAVE HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES THAT FAR SURPASS OURS. ON THE CONTRARY, WE CONTINUE TO HOLD FAST TO THE CONCEPT OF UNESCO AS A PLACE FOR INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL COOPERATION AND REFLECTION.

AS A FORUM FOR INTELLECTUAL ACTIVITY AND A SCHOOL OF TOLERANCE, UNESCO IS THERE TO SERVE AS A REMINDER THAT ITS WORLD VIEW IS, TO PARAPHRASE ANDRÉ GIDE, ONLY ONE OF A THOUSAND WAYS IN WHICH LIFE CAN BE APPROACHED. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION WILL TRULY STRIVE TO PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN COUNTRIES WHOSE CAPABILITIES AND NEEDS IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS DIFFER WIDELY.

MR. PRESIDENT, BELIEVING THAT IN SO DOING IT HAS HELPED DEVELOP A COMMON PERCEPTION OF UNESCO'S ROLE, CANADA HAS IN RECENT YEARS