

On June 15 of this year the United Nations Disarmament Commission adopted a resolution requesting this Assembly to give urgent consideration to the holding of a world disarmament conference. My Government accepts in principle the idea of a world disarmament conference. We believe that such a conference will require careful and thorough preparation. Over the years certain principles have been accepted for the conduct of disarmament negotiations. It is the view of Canada that the agreed principles adopted by the Assembly in 1962 should continue to govern discussions at the world disarmament conference.

The Secretary-General has suggested in a recent speech that progress on disarmament, whether general or nuclear, would hardly be possible so long as one of the major military powers, which has recently developed some military nuclear capacity in its own right, did not participate. He went on to indicate that when the world disarmament conference is held it should take place under conditions which would make it possible for all countries, if they so wished, to participate in its deliberations. This is the view also of my Government. If a world disarmament conference takes place, Canada hopes that the People's Republic of China will be invited to take part in the discussions.

I would like to come to some aspects of economic and social development. For, in our anxiety over the great questions of war and peace, we must not overlook the connection between those matters and the economic and social circumstances which are the pre-conditions of order and stability. The past 20 years have witnessed the awakening of man's social conscience and the start of an unprecedented assault on poverty, disease and ignorance.

But that is not enough. The gap between the per capita incomes of the developing and developed countries has been widening; the population explosion demands a rapid increase in the momentum of economic development; and debt repayment problems are threatening programmes already launched. The fact is that the flow of development assistance has been levelling off at the very time when the need for it is quickening. This requires resolute action by all of us, collectively and individually.

Speaking for my country, I can say that our recognition of this need is indicated by our response. Last year we more than doubled our bilateral aid programme. This year we are increasing it again. I can state today that, provided a satisfactory charter can be worked out and subject to parliamentary approval, we will join the Asian Development Bank and make a contribution of up to \$25 million to its subscription capital. Elsewhere, we are prepared to embark on the second stage of our special arrangements with the Inter-American Development Bank whereby earlier this year we made available for lending in Latin America the sum of \$25 million; I am now glad to announce that an additional \$10 million will be put at the disposal of the Bank for lending at terms which may extend up to 50 years at no interest charge.

In addition to official governmental contributions, it is significant to note that the people of Canada are becoming increasingly involved, in a more personal way, in helping the developing countries. With government support, more and more funds are being mobilized, and a growing number of trained and talented young Canadians is working in a variety of ways in overseas countries where help is needed.