

Community development is a slow process and the fact that too much has been expected in the past has probably created some impatience with this slowness. The task ahead is a tremendous one but it is unrealistic to think that the United Nations can do it alone. The countries which benefit from United Nations programmes should prepare the groundwork by taking the necessary steps to inform their people of all the advantages in community development, both on the local and national levels. If the people themselves are not aware of the tremendous need for community development, projects instituted will be of little value.

I might mention here the role that volunteer agencies can play in community development in the developing countries as they have done in many of the industrialized countries, by making the community aware of their own ability to remedy their problems without waiting for government assistance. In Canada, for example, volunteer groups have often taken the lead in promoting action in education, social welfare and cultural activities. In view of their previous experience in this field the Canadian people are following with great interest the progress which the developing countries are achieving through this same approach. Indicative of the interest in Canada in this subject were the two seminars recently held, one called "Adventure in Development" and the other, "Challenge in World Development".

UNICEF has played a most important role in community development and at a period when requests for assistance are rising so dramatically it seems to us a matter of great importance that one member of the United Nations family has its aim focused at all times on the needs of the child. We are particularly pleased that UNICEF in its programmes for children, including community development, has been working in close cooperation with the specialized agencies.

My Government has always been most impressed by the encouraging support received by UNICEF everywhere both through voluntary agencies and governmental contributions. In Canada, for example, the