

confrontation between East and West. It is towards cooperation and generosity, not recrimination and rigidity, in North-South relations. It is towards negotiation, not warfare, in regional disputes. It is towards implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted forty years ago.

We must give hope to those who today find their rights to free expression silenced by gunfire. We must provide sustenance to the flame of liberty in all regions where fundamental rights are being abused. We must reinforce the role of the Security Council in the pursuit of peacemaking and peacekeeping around the world. It can be done, with the help of everyone in this Assembly.

Mr. President, for two generations the arms race, regional disputes and the threat of nuclear annihilation have been a central preoccupation of the United Nations, and so they will remain. But I believe we are at a point in history when we must devote significantly more political energy to problems other than security, problems just as important, but until now accorded a lower priority.

I want to speak specifically about the twin challenges of severe poverty and our endangered environment. I believe we will not have true security until these problems have been successfully resolved.

These issues were high on the agendas of three international summits: Canada hosted this past year -- la Francophonie, the Commonwealth, and the Economic Summit. At these meetings, I found a growing conviction among national leaders that these problems can be tackled successfully, and before the end of this century. These problems command the same priority in the United Nations.

Poverty undermines security. It compromises equality. It denies hope. Today, it is estimated that at least one billion people live in absolute poverty. They are hungry. They are often sick. They are uneducated. They die young.

Alleviating poverty must be given a new priority on national and international agendas. We must work to achieve social justice for the poorest of our world, and economic growth which does not destroy the environment.

At Toronto, the leaders of the major industrialized countries renewed their commitment to work towards continued growth for the benefit of both industrialized and developing countries.