

between developed and developing countries. UNCTAD VII was an example of an international conference for whose outcome the prognosis was uniformly gloomy. The doubters were wrong. The U.N. scored a major success.

The special session on Africa is beginning to yield concrete results, albeit there is a long, long way yet to go. The international community clearly now recognizes that the majority of African countries are making great efforts to turn their economies around. But the international community must equally recognize that the debt situation for many African countries is desperate, and must be addressed in new and innovative ways or the entire recovery program may collapse. In that context, I welcome the Secretary-General's appointment of the advisory panel on resource flows. We anxiously await its report. As most members of this assembly know, Canada is so concerned about this issue that at the Francophone Summit we announced the cancellation of all official debt which we have held in Francophone Africa. Next month, we will do the same at the Commonwealth Conference for anglophone Africa.

The Brundtland Commission has produced a blunt and clear report on the urgency of protecting our resources and environment. In that spirit, in Montreal last week, nations signed an ozone treaty, controlling the emissions of chlorofluoro-carbons. Dr. Mostafa Tolba, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program, called it "the first truly global treaty that offers protection to every single human being on the planet". Our government believes that Montreal treaty will serve as a model for future international agreements on the environment.

The Conference on Disarmament and Development just concluded, yielded a remarkable consensus document, holding disarmament and development as essential to national security. It graphically demonstrated the capacity of this organization to find agreement in the most complex fields.

The World Health Organization is recognized as a crucial resource for gathering the statistics and planning necessary as countries struggle to master the world-wide AIDS epidemic.

Within its own doors, the United Nations has made social strides in another field - the equality rights of women. In forty-one years there had not been even one woman permanently appointed as an Under-Secretary-General. Now there are three, and we take particular satisfaction that the first woman appointed is an outstanding Canadian, Madame Therese Paquet-Sevigny, Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Public Information.