

sultations with concerned Canadians regarding the objectives and operation of the Futures Secretariat, whose establishment I announced at the Special Session. The Futures Secretariat is, of course, intended to complement an already extensive network of NGOs [non-governmental organizations] who have been working for years to educate and involve the public on development issues, not only aid-related but on the broader concerns referred to above. Parliamentarians have also contributed to the process, as for example in 1975 when three of our colleagues toured the country. We must now, I believe, seek to intensify the level of grassroots involvement if we are, as I have suggested, to begin to deal with these issues on a longer-term basis. How can we as politicians play our part? That is an important question that we must answer.

Mr. Chairman, the year 1981 will present a number of opportunities both for Canada and the international community to move ahead in the North-South dialogue. The proposed North-South Summit, the Ottawa Economic Summit, and the Commonwealth heads of government meeting will all help to sensitize governments and publics further to the issues and allow more frank and informal talks to overcome rhetoric and bloc-to-bloc confrontation. The Global Negotiations will, I hope, present an opportunity to integrate and give new impetus to the negotiation of specific problems. But we must not become too 'event' oriented. It is not the discussions themselves which are important. It is their outcome. The needs are great and increased international co-operation in the search for solutions is the only answer. It is in this context – of both need and hope – that I look forward with anticipation to the Task Force's contribution to this search.