



observers are now reflecting cautious optimism....

The General Assembly's proclamation of the International Year of Peace goes well beyond the more traditional issues of disarmament and the peaceful settlement of disputes. It recognizes that efforts to improve the conditions of life for people around the world and the natural environment can alleviate tensions and thereby make for a more peaceful world.

It is obvious that flagrant inequality between rich and poor is a potential source of instability; that incarceration, torture and murder of persons by their own or alien governments breeds bitterness and violence; that continuing desertification of vast tracts of Africa may force entire communities to move into the territory of others, with serious potential for conflict.

Canada has for many years made substantial efforts to alleviate such problems and we will remain active and persistent in seeking long-term solutions for them.

Canada's development assistance programmes recognize our humanitarian duty to help the world's poor, illiterate and afflicted; they also recognize the benefits for our own economic well-being of a more widely-shared prosperity. We are, therefore, committed to advancing issues of concern to the less-developed countries in a number of ways:

- a better definition of growth and adjustment in developing countries, through discussions under way in the World Bank and the IMF;
- strengthening the international trading system through the promotion of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations;
- participating in the special UN discussions on African development problems;
- strengthening the international economic negotiating machinery of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); and

— improving the definition of international agricultural policies and seeking to make the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme work better.

Canada also helps to protect human rights through our participation in the Commission on Human Rights (currently in session in Geneva), the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly's Third Committee. Work is proceeding to allow Canada to ratify the International Convention Against Torture. We have been especially heartened by recent political developments in Guatemala, Haiti and the Philippines, which point to new policies and better respect for the human rights of the peoples of those countries.

Canada has long striven to persuade the South African authorities of the injustice and short-sightedness of the system of apartheid. Last July, the Government announced a series of measures designed to stiffen the pressure on South Africa and to signal our profound dissatisfaction with its failure to put an end to institutionalized racial discrimination. Prime Minister Mulroney played a key role at the most recent meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government in developing a Commonwealth plan of action. We are using every avenue to urge the South African Government to summon up the courage to dispense with this unjust and backward system. The Anglican Primate of Canada, Reverend Edward Scott, is a member of the Group of Eminent Persons now seeking a more open dialogue with South Africa in an effort to avert a major tragedy.

For more than a decade, Canada has been in the vanguard of international efforts to improve the management of the world's natural environment, but mankind is still witnessing the disastrous results of careless neglect. Acid rain is damaging our forests and the aquatic life in our lakes, the Sahara advances perceptibly into the hitherto fertile lands of the Sahel; cities are defiled by smog and undrinkable water. Efforts to combat environmental damage must be based

on the realistic premise that, though this is a long-term problem, action must start now.

Progress has been registered recently through international collaboration to reduce pollution in the Mediterranean and the signing last July of an international protocol on sulfur dioxide emissions. In 1986, we will continue to combat acid rain and Great Lakes pollution; in the Economic Commission for Europe, discussions are continuing to reduce nitrous oxide emissions from industrial sources, power plants and motor vehicles; in the UN Environmental Programme, negotiations are under way on an international protocol on the protection of the earth's ozone layer. The World Commission on Environment and Development will visit Canada May 22-31 to examine environmental problems and better ways and means of resolving them. Groups and private citizens will have an opportunity to present views to the Commission....

For many Canadians, the IYP proclamation confirmed what we had already known. It has served to remind us that peace without development is not peace, that peace without racial equality and harmony is not peace, that peace without a reasonable quality of life is not peace.

It is, therefore, the fullness of Canada's programmes — from development assistance and active support for human rights to the protection of the environment and the promotion of a better standard of living for people across the country and, indeed, around the world — that constitutes a meaningful contribution to peace.

The spirit, determination and commitment generated by IYP must be carried forward into the years ahead if we are to create a truly peaceful planet.

Canada and Canadians can use IYP as a catalyst in our ongoing work for peace. If we can infuse others with our hope and belief in true human security, we will have accomplished a great deal."