

There have been three successive years of drought in parts of Africa and the Asian sub-continent and abnormally poor growing seasons in many other parts of the world. Until now only a few food producing nations, including Canada, held surplus food stocks and even their existing stocks fluctuated according to weather conditions and international demand. Over the years, efforts to create food banks have proved largely unsuccessful.

Now, a constructive proposal to assure world food security has been introduced by the Director General of the Food and Agricultural Agency. Its rate of success will be directly proportional to the effort made by each nation to adjust accordingly its food production and stocking policies. I urge every nation -- not just those who are the traditional surplus food producers -- to support and co-operate with the Food and Agricultural Agency in this task. It is an essential task if we are to exorcise the dreadful spectre of starvation which menaces millions of human beings. Canada has supported the revitalization which, over the past few years, has been transforming the Economic and Social Council. A very important change for Canada and for Canada's relations with Europe was our election by the Economic and Social Council to full membership on the Economic Commission for Europe.

One of the prime responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council is the successful implementation of the action programme adopted by this assembly for the Second United Nations Development Decade -- the international development strategy. That strategy is neither perfect nor immutable. Our appraisal of it has proven already to be a difficult process. It is not, however, an impossible process, and it is one that I hope will become easier as we all become more attuned to its requirements.

Mr. President, we stand in the shadow of other terrifying and universal problems, which can only be overcome by international co-operation. Last year I spoke out strongly about terrorism and I must do so again. Civilization cries out for effective action by the international community to protect innocent persons against premeditated acts of violence.

Since last year international efforts to combat terrorism have gathered some momentum through various international organizations and instrumentalities. Over 86 states have, for example, signed the 1970 Hague Convention on Aerial Hijacking. It is encouraging to note the growing list of ratifications to combat acts of unlawful interference with civil aviation by states from all geographical regions and of all political views. However, terrorism has not been eliminated; it remains a double-edged sword -- in its indiscriminate sweep it cuts at the roots of international order as well as at the hand that wields it.

We shall look to all nations and to the General Assembly for action on further measures to combat acts of terrorism.

Terror has another face. It is that of nuclear poison and the ultimate threat of nuclear holocaust. Although ten years have elapsed since the Partial Test Ban came into force, there has been no further progress toward achieving the cessation of all nuclear tests -- which was the ultimate objective of the signatories of that treaty. Despite improving prospects for international security resulting from strategic arms limitation agreements, there has, regrettably, been no sign that either of the super-powers is prepared to curtail underground nuclear testing -- or to enter into