

turn to the other major field in which the United Nations has a part to play in pushing outward the boundaries of international co-operation, the enlargement of world prosperity.

World peace and world prosperity are closely linked together. A climate of world peace is indispensable if the struggle against poverty, hunger and disease is to be waged effectively and with the full mobilization of all the resources at our command. Conversely, there cannot be any assured prospect of peace and security in a world in which affluence and poverty are so unevenly distributed.

We are now approaching the mid-point of the United Nations Development Decade. The object in designating the 1960s in this way was to achieve in the developing countries targets of economic growth that held out some prospect of narrowing the gap between their living standards and those of the developed countries. These targets were set as minimum targets, representing, as they did, a compromise between what needed to be done and what was considered to lie within the realm of practical achievement. Experience has shown that even these minimum targets can be met only if domestic effort in the developing countries is properly deployed and if it is supported by appropriate international policies. Experience has also shown that trade has a vital contribution to make to the total development process.

Conference on Trade and Development

It was with the object of bringing trade and development into closer focus that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was convened in Geneva earlier this year. This was the largest economic conference held in the history of this or any other organization. It was also the first such conference to concern itself comprehensively with the problem of under-development which affects two-thirds of the world's population. It enabled us jointly to take stock of the magnitude of the problem. It brought about a substantial measure of identification of the interests of developing countries as a group. Indeed, the coalescence of the 75 developing countries within the larger community of interest, which includes us all, was perhaps the most significant single feature of the Geneva Conference. I think it is fair to say that the Conference enabled us to arrive at a much better understanding of the broad lines along which domestic and international effort must henceforth be directed. It also produced broadly agreed recommendations on a number of important questions, especially those relating to development planning in a framework of international support.

Inevitably, the Conference did not go as far as many would have wished it to go. But I think we would be wrong to judge the Conference in terms only of its short-term results. World public opinion is now seized of the problem of under-development as never before. We can also now look forward to the establishment of an institutional framework within which the work that was begun at Geneva can be carried forward in depth. For my part, I look upon the Conference as a