

I am happy and honoured to have been invited to the Annual Meeting of the Canadian UNICEF Committee. UNICEF has always had a special place in the United Nations family of organizations. There is no doubt that it has been one of the most successful international co-operative efforts that have come into being in the period after the Second World War. Its success is due very largely, I believe, to the interest that national organizations in many countries of private persons like the Canadian UNICEF Committee have taken in UNICEF's programmes and the hard work done to rally public support to its endeavours.

UNICEF is getting on to be 30 years old. This may seem pretty young to some of us, but in terms of international organizations, it is well nigh venerable. It began as an emergency fund but soon it became obvious that the need for UNICEF was a long term one and that the organization required an indefinite mandate to pursue its work.

What I have always found particularly attractive about UNICEF is its orientation toward the future through its concern for the children who will inherit this world from us. The second aspect of UNICEF that I find particularly appealing is that it is a voluntary organization. While relying on government contributions for an important part of its budget, nonetheless UNICEF receives generous support through the work and interest of private citizens in many countries.

From the beginning of UNICEF's existence Canadians, both private and official, have played a very important part in assuring the success of the organization. Sitting here tonight is a most distinguished lady who among her several careers and activities was Deputy Director of UNICEF for many years after having been Canada's representative on the UNICEF Executive Board. I am speaking of Mrs. Adelaide Sinclair.

As someone who has dealt for a number of years with foreign affairs, I have been conscious of the very great requirement in Canada for an increased awareness of the world outside our borders, its problems and its needs. I have noticed a marked increase in this awareness in the past few years which is very welcome. It is organizations like the UNICEF Committee that have stimulated throughout Canada an interest in developments outside our country and our continent.

Since its creation, UNICEF has known the terrible facts about malnutrition and disease that so many of the world's children know as a seemingly inescapable part of their lives. More recently, we have become aware that the problem of feeding the world's growing population has become even more acute, as world population rises and as we begin to see that the resources of the world are not, as we once tended to think, infinite -- that unless there is world-wide co-operation and intelligent global management of food and other resources even the next generation may be faced with massive starvation.

The symptoms have been evident for some time. There have been bright spots such as the "green revolution" whereby better seeds, better agricultural techniques, and the use of fertilizer has increased enormously the productivity of many countries. To balance this, however, we have seen populations rise even faster than the rise in productivity. And we have seen how vulnerable the "green revolution" itself is to shortages of water and fertilizer. We have seen certain fish stocks from the seemingly inexhaustible