

institutions as much as in urban technology.

Special problems of developing nations
But what of the developing world? The vast majority of mankind's new settlements will not be in the rich, settled societies. They will be in poorer, still-developing lands, where the resources necessary to deal with growth are tragically inadequate. When their urbanization trends are seen in the context of their population problem, their poverty, their food and energy problems, they assume the proportions of an exploding crisis. In the cities of the developing world the old environmental evils of poor water, absence of sewage and spreading slums are coupled with modern evils of smog and fumes and chemical pollution. These cities, spreading and deteriorating over another two decades, offer us the tragic prospect of providing the very worst environment in which human beings have ever been reared.

This is a crisis from which we in the rich, developed world cannot escape. Our Prime Minister, Mr. Trudeau, referred to this recently on March 13, in a speech at the Mansion House. Referring to the old protective barriers between nations, he said: "Today those barriers are gone. There are no bulwarks behind which we can retreat in order to stave off or avoid calamity from abroad. And, if there are any who believe otherwise, they are fools. Nations that are told that they can exist and flourish independent of the world are being misinformed. We are on this earth. Each has the power to injure all others. Each of us must assume the responsibility that that implies." In this crisis, the developed world has no choice but to respond. The question is not whether but how quickly. Given these trends, and the needs they imply, it should not be surprising that the United Nations — at two meetings of the General Assembly since Stockholm — has stated that the environment problem of greatest concern to most of the nations and most of the peoples of the world is the environment of their cities and towns and villages, of their dwellings and work places — in other words, of man's own "Habitat".

Better design, wiser management
Work that was done for Stockholm, and since Stockholm, has demonstrated

clearly that the key to the problem of resource-conservation — and also the key to the problem of overloading the natural environment with waste — will have to be found largely in the better design and wiser management of our human settlements. Monitoring our atmosphere and oceans, our fish and wildlife, will tell us how rapidly we are degrading our environment. In order to stop degrading our environment, however (as you have demonstrated so dramatically here in London and with the River Thames), we must attack the sources of the wastes. Increasingly, these are to be found in the economic activity and life-style of our settlements. The same is true of energy consumption, resource conservation and even food-supply. Let us use energy and resources as an example. We in Canada — and most countries of the developed world — have designed our cities and towns on the assumption that the energy and other resources needed to sustain them are and will remain unlimited in quantity and cheap in price. Look at our recent urban systems: isolated rather than community heating systems, high-rise towers sealed, air-conditioned, with complex vertical transportation systems — our urban systems are highly consumptive of energy and other resources and they generate an increasing volume of waste that imposes an intolerable burden on the land and on our common atmosphere and oceans.

We don't need to continue to build such systems. With present technology, we can design urban systems that are far less wasteful of energy and resources without reducing either our standard of living or the amenities that we enjoy. We can also significantly reduce the social problems and the alienation that are increasingly characteristic of our societies. In short, we can find a new synthesis between man's continuing desire for betterment and the constraints of a finite world with finite resources.

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Lessons of Western Europe

Western Europe — and especially you in Britain — has pioneered many of the more successful approaches to urbanization. Your regional-planning and development policies, your new towns, your public transportation, are examples of this. During the past week I

have been discussing these and other approaches with European ministers and officials, and I have seen examples of where and how they have been applied. I have been impressed both by the similarity of our problems and by the relevance to Canada of so many of the approaches that have been tried.

This is of immediate interest to us in Canada. We are in the process of re-examining Canadian urban trends and the types of policies and programs needed to shape these trends.

Perilous distribution of urban growth
Our urbanization trends are not too different from those of Western Europe, the U.S.A. and other developed countries. In brief, we face a period of extremely rapid urbanization, perhaps a doubling of our total urban environment in less than 25 years. We are disturbed by this projected pace of urbanization because we feel that it could overwhelm the capacity of our institutions to plan for it and absorb it in a manner that would produce a livable and high-quality urban environment. We are perhaps even more disturbed by the projected distribution of this urban growth. If the trends are allowed to unfold, Canada faces a future that is not only predominantly urban but also one in which the overwhelming majority of Canadians will be concentrated in a small number of very large urban regions. Indeed, by the turn of the century two-thirds of our total population will be living in just three provinces: Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia; and three-quarters of that two-thirds — or roughly half of all Canadians — will be living in the Montreal-, Toronto- and Vancouver-centred regions.

If allowed to unfold, these trends will have an immense impact not only on these provinces and cities but also on all the others. Our largest, most rapidly growing cities will become unmanageable; the others, continuing to lose population, will wither, regional economic disparities will be accentuated and political power will shift, perhaps to quasi city-states, but most certainly to the dominant provinces, to an even greater extent than today.

The Government of Canada, the governments of all our provinces and most of our cities, have agreed that these trends are unacceptable. We have also agreed that we must co-operate in the development and application of policies