

advance substantial resources out of its own food stocks to cover the deficit. For Somalia, one of the world's 25 poorest countries, this has meant an expenditure of more than \$40 million in food aid — a siphoning off of scarce capital and manpower resources which, in other circumstances would have been allocated to development.

In conclusion, I want to say something about the role we can play as parliamentarians in pressing for recognition of these pressing realities in our world today. The problems of disarmament have been with us for several decades; the shape of the new economic order has emerged more recently. But recognition of our difficulties has not necessarily brought us closer to resolving them. And for many, this failure brings the risk of discouragement, despair and cynicism. In the final analysis, that may be the greatest impediment to breaking down the barriers to effective action.

As legislators, we can play a catalytic role in persisting in our quest for a more just and secure world. As politicians, too, we can provide a much-needed leadership in sensitizing the people we represent to the need for perseverance in changing the old patterns, in building new perceptions of humanity in an interdependent world. We must reject the notion that it is naive to pursue disarmament in a world whose existence is threatened by the armaments of two superpowers. Likewise, we must help our people to understand that it is imperative to work towards closing the economic gap that separates the world into the very rich and the very poor.

A few weeks ago at the Special Session of the General Assembly on North-South issues, I pledged to lead a campaign in Canada to sensitize the Canadian people to the need for adopting new approaches to aid and development. I did so because I believe that initiatives of this kind can go far to move the parliamentary process to deal with the broad new difficulties that have resulted from change on many fronts in the world. I suggest that others can make the same kind of commitment in their own countries. And I hope that through actions of this kind the barriers to fruitful negotiation can be broken by the understanding and humanity demonstrated not only by those in high councils, but by the moral force of ordinary people throughout the world.

Finally, we must directly face the relationship between disarmament and development. While disarmament would clearly free resources for development, without more it would not guarantee that they would be utilized for that purpose, I want to suggest to you the idea of a process of disarmament for development, which could become a major initiative of Parliamentarians for World Order. Your initiative could include development of a formula for redeploying resources now invested in armaments which would earmark a specific percentage of the diverted funds to official development assistance. Within a context of global disarmament, such a proposal might find support.

In making a similar suggestion three years ago, Olaf Palme said: "If two trends which threaten peace can be transformed into one process that would enhance the possibilities of peace, why should we not do our utmost to attain this change of direction?"

Parliamentarians for World Order could be the agent for change in bringing about this new direction. I wish you well in your deliberations.