

spent by non-governmental organizations, which have proven their effectiveness in community development programs.

The record of the international community on economic issues is one of achievement, although far from perfect. We must ensure that the specialized institutions that we have created will prove capable of coping with current and future challenges. There is growing support for a pragmatic, issue-oriented approach. Organizations such as the International Monetary Fund/World Bank, GATT, UN Conference on Trade and Development, and others which have specific mandates within the multilateral system, are being encouraged to get on with their jobs with a renewed sense of commitment and co-operation.

As the Secretary-General has emphasized, nowhere is human need greater today than in Africa, where many countries face drought and starvation. The problem of refugees remains of special concern there. So do the debt and balance-of-payments problems that affect African countries. This year Canada is devoting over 40 per cent of bilateral aid to Africa. We have sharply increased our food allocations and raised our contributions to humanitarian relief organizations.

The struggle for freedom and equality in southern Africa is also our common cause. Canada joined with other Commonwealth countries in adopting the 1979 Lusaka Declaration on Racism and Racial Prejudice. We stand by that declaration which reflects our commitment to work for the eradication of the evil of racism. We reject policies designed to perpetuate *apartheid* and continue racial discrimination.

We are also grieved that the people of Namibia are still denied their independence after a century of colonial rule. South Africa must set a date to implement Namibia's independence under Security Council Resolution 435.

Mr. President, I speak here today as a foreign minister conscious of the frustrations of this organization and the limits on its actions. But I first encountered the United Nations as an idea, not an institution – an idea which reached into the comfortable corner of the world where I was born, let me know that famine and war and disease were part of daily life in most of the world, and gave me hope that there was a way we would fight those evils. Viewed from that perspective, the United Nations can be judged, not by volumes of repetitive debates, but by the millions of children who are fed and clothed and living; the wars that were averted or limited or postponed; the hundreds of millions of human lives that have been protected or improved because the idea of the United Nations connects people who can help people who need help.

The idea of the United Nations is as important now as at any time in our history. It forces the comfortable out of complacency. It lifts the desperate beyond despair. It allows today's frustrations to be seen in the light of four decades of lives improved, conflicts reduced, perspectives enlarged.

Mr. President, support for the UN must be based upon a clear-sighted view of current realities. When we list the things that have gone wrong with the UN, we should not forget the things that have gone right. When we rejoice in the things that have gone right we often underestimate the political and