

Mr. Chairman,

My first remarks are addressed to Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and to members of the Preparatory Committee, to whom I extend my sincere thanks for having organized this Special Session of the General Assembly.

We all know why we are gathered here today. The economic crisis in Africa concerns us all. In March 1985 we met in Geneva to respond to a call from Africa which had been stricken by a disastrous famine. Today this food crisis, while not entirely behind us, is being resolved. This is encouraging.

As it meets here today, at the request of the OAU, the international community is responding also to the deep concerns of our peoples. Speaking for Canadians, emergency assistance for those who are dying of starvation is not enough. The people of Canada want us to move beyond the crisis to address its causes. This is what they expect of me; and this is what I intend to do in the next few days, months, and years.

I wish to begin by reporting to you how Canadians have responded to the African crisis of the past two years. I shall then address the economic policy proposals which African Governments themselves have put forward to renew economic growth and development in the region. I shall then indicate how we foresee our contribution to the continent's development.

Mr. Chairman, we Canadians have been deeply touched by the African crisis. The people of Canada mobilized in an unprecedented way, in an attempt to come to the assistance of those stricken by that disaster. The response took many forms. First, there was the remarkable job done by the news media, who, with perseverance, compassion and respect, generated public awareness of the problem. There were also tens of thousands of offers of assistance from individuals, groups, institutions, provincial and municipal governments that felt compelled to help; trade unions, cooperatives, local groups, schools and universities spontaneously organized collections of funds and offered their assistance. More than \$60 million was collected from the general public. Our volunteer organizations involved in international cooperation spontaneously formed an Africa Emergency Assistance