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Before closing, I wish to remark generally on Canada's perception of its role both in this Special Session and in the important negotiating process which lies ahead. In many ways, our national history and culture — and our relative youth — have given us a consciousness of many of the realities of both North and South. Nature has blessed us with an abundance of resources that has enabled us to take a place as one of the world's more industrialized nations. But we remain a heavy exporter of natural resources and an importer of capital and technology, and hence we share many of the concerns of the developing countries about the operation of the international system in these areas. Canadians know that our relatively recent emergence from colonial status could well have proven to be long and costly had we not had available to us the resources on which to build a stable society for a free and independent people. Today, we feel we owe the same opportunities to those states of the world less well endowed by nature or history, so that they may have access to the resources necessary for their orderly growth and social progress.

At the outset, I said that I would direct my candour to my fellow countrymen as well as on their behalf. We have not been fully aware, they and I, of the depths and intensity of human misery and need, and we therefore have not framed our policies accordingly. I pledge myself to become aware and to help my fellow Canadians become aware of the needs of our fellow citizens of the earth. I am confident that, granted awareness, we will rise to the challenge. I am convinced that this campaign for awareness will first sensitise and then mobilize public opinion in my country to support policies necessary for Canada's full participation in the solution of these problems. If others in the North were to take up the same cause, we could guide the course of history.

My Government, since its election earlier this year, has been actively reviewing its policies on North-South issues and looking for new approaches. In an effort to achieve all-party consensus, we have also established a Parliamentary task force on North-South relations whose members are present here today. I believe this task force can make an important contribution in helping to identify policy options and in mustering public support.

In our campaign for awareness in Canada, I intend to appeal particularly to the altruism and idealism of youth, who in any event have the most at stake. We shall also create a Futures Secretariat under the Canadian International Development Agency, with the primary mandate presenting activities to inform and involve our citizens, at many levels, about and in the great issues with which we have to grapple here. While my Government is prepared to bear the major part of the cost of this initiative, we hope that the business community, universities, professional institutions and voluntary association will seize the opportunity to co-operate in this endeavour.

The initiative need not be confined to Canada. We are prepared to work with developed and developing countries to create a more hospitable climate for the kind of international action that will be necessary if we are to rid our world of poverty and to create a better life for every human being.

As well, we shall make very effort to ensure that important North-South problems are

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