

most valuable contribution towards solving many of the difficulties which have challenged programmes of social development. With the cooperation of the Bureau of Social Affairs, the specialized agencies concerned and the Regional Economic Commissions, this Research Institute will, in its 3 to 5 year period of existence open new paths towards the solution of social problems on the regional, national and international level.

My Government has taken note, with great interest, of the report of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Community Development, which met in New York earlier this year. It is our opinion that the importance of community development cannot be over-estimated in any planning designed to promote social development.

The United Nations Community Development programme has a unique and indispensable role to play. Having had some experience in several community development programmes in action in African and Asian countries, UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO, FAO, and ILO are to be congratulated for the outstanding contributions they are making in this field and the fine example that is being set by all these agencies in the spirit of teamwork. Interest in the advantages of community development is spreading throughout the world for these programmes are designed to strengthen the ability of whole communities of people to advance through local action. It is particularly important at this time when the demand for assistance is steadily rising and the United Nations is receiving many more requests than it can handle, that there be a special emphasis on community development as a local initiative. We would hope that the developing countries would increase their efforts to organize themselves on a local and regional basis so that they may understand their own particular needs, determine those which should have priority, and ensure that their local resources are fully utilized. In this way they will see their own immediate problems and will be better able to anticipate what future action should be taken and from what particular projects they would most benefit.