

It is insufficient for an individual to enjoy full human rights before the law if he or she does not have the basic necessities of life: enough food, health care; education; shelter. Problems of want must be attacked directly and urgently in the 1980's.

I welcome the renewed attention being given by the United Nations and its organs to these problems, for here, too, I see reason for hope. There is growing recognition that development assistance does not imply the foisting of one country's social and economic philosophy on another. The true meaning of cooperation is increasingly understood.

It is no answer to the problem to set up a sort of international social welfare system to give hand-outs to the poorest. Nothing could be more demeaning to human dignity, nor more guaranteed to perpetuate poverty. Our goal must be to enable people to use their own abilities, and to assist states to develop their own potential.

These may sound grand words, optimistic words, easy to say. But frankly, Mr. President, I am optimistic about the capacity of our international community to work together to solve the problems before it. That these problems are huge, numerous and complicated, there is no denial.

What I find worrying is not the fact that we have problems, but the manner in which we approach them. I place enormous personal importance on the North-South dialogue. And yet I fear our present approach is doomed to failure. Many of the problems with which we are grappling in this dialogue are, after all, the result of change - rapid change, dramatic change, and, if we are honest with ourselves, change that is often for the better. The last three decades - including the turbulent '70's - have been ones of unprecedented economic growth for the developing world, at rates faster than those of the industrialized countries. The problem is that this growth has been uneven, and, in the minds of those whose expectations have been raised so high, not fast enough. As we look into the decade before us, it is the countries at the bottom end of the economic scale who face the bleakest future and the lowest growth. At the opposite end of the scale, in the wealthy industrial countries, the prospects for the 1980's are, for a variety of reasons, also for a relatively slow pace of economic growth. Between these extremes, however, lie countries whose growth has been much more rapid, and who, in spite of immense problems, are likely to maintain a faster pace in the future.

This, Mr. President, is a very brief outline of what has been happening in the past and what is likely to occur in the years ahead. And yet the international discussions of such matters do not take account of these realities. Of particular concern to me is the increasing note of pessimism that seems to be creeping into the North/South dialogue; the contention that nothing has changed for the better anywhere and is unlikely to