

I am sure all of you have been struck, as I have, by the fact that, in the two great current crises (in Vietnam and in the Dominican Republic), the need has been acknowledged for the injection of significant economic resources as one means of restoring long-run stability. I have made it clear that Canada would play its full part in carrying forward the tremendous task of economic development in Southeast Asia. And I also indicated, in the House of Commons last week, that we should be prepared to consider whether there is a part for Canada to play in what will inevitably be a long and difficult process of rehabilitation in the Dominican Republic.

But there is surely a lesson to be learned from all this. And the lesson, it seems to me, is this: in a world which is so unevenly divided into areas of affluence and poverty, a world in which whole societies are undergoing radical transformation, situations of crisis are bound to occur. It is right for the world community to develop the machinery it has for containing those situations and bringing them under control. But it is also indispensable for the world community, in the longer run, to mobilize the immense resources at its command to deal with the sources of crisis, to see that the expectations of men and women the world over for a better life in larger freedom do not turn into frustration and disenchantment. That, too, is a matter of enlightened national interest for us, and I should think it is something that is vital to the whole future of the United Nations.

Here in Canada, as in the United States, we have declared a war on domestic poverty. We have done that because we have realized that the energies and the loyalties of our people cannot be properly harnessed to the task of nation-building in circumstances where there are great gaps in incomes and opportunities. If we are trying to harness the energies and the loyalties of the new nations to the concepts of international law and order, and of an international community, the time has surely come to extend our approach to the international plans.

I must now summarize the issues facing the United Nations as I see them:

First, it is essential that the United Nations be restored to solvency. This calls for an equitable solution to the present financial crisis. We are prepared to make our contribution to such a solution.

Second, we continue to attach the highest importance to the United Nations as an instrument of international peace and security. We shall do our utmost to help preserve the capacity of the United Nations to intervene effectively in the cause of peace. We are seeking to achieve this by the adoption of broadly acceptable constitutional arrangements and by improvements in the efficiency of United Nations forces.

Third, we recognize that, in a changing world, the United Nations cannot remain immune from change. We recognize, in particular, that a majority of the members of the United Nations look upon it as an instrument for peaceful change. We must be prepared to embrace that conception and to see it reflected in our policies.