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engaged in a mineral industry of immense economic benefit, yet of staggering production costs and problems. And here we face dangers of the most awesome sort, exceeding in risk and potential destruction any knowledge ever possessed by human beings.

With stakes so valuable and knowledge so changing, with consequences so sweeping and issues so baffling in their moral and ethical application, there should be little wonder that answers are not always available, or not always acceptable when they are available.

Nuclear activity is one of the many in which man is now engaged that, if not made susceptible to reason and discipline, could become ultra-hazardous, even cataclysmic. All our joint wisdom and all our dedication will be required in order to ensure that mankind enjoys the benefits of this activity without suffering from its perils. Canadian Government nuclear policies have attempted to steer this course. Your understanding and support have been as welcome as they have been crucial, for we are traversing unmapped terrain where a wrong turn could engulf us in holocaust. We have no alternative but caution because our tolerance for error and our ability to reverse miscalculation are minimal.

We have three obligations as a nuclear power. Those obligations form the basis of Canada's nuclear policy. I'd like to talk about them.

The first of these obligations finds its origins in the character of Canadians, and in those circumstances of wilderness and weather that contributed to that character. We are a society that has not forgotten its frontier origins. We are a people who have experienced the torment of need, who understand the benefits of sharing. It is inconsistent with that experience and that understanding that we should now deny to the less-developed countries of the world the opportunity to gain a hand-hold on the technological age. It is inconsistent with the character of Canadians that we should expect those hundreds of millions of persons living in destitute circumstances in so many parts of the world to wait patiently for improvement while their countries proceed painfully through the industrial revolution.

They should not be asked to re-invent the wheel. There is no reason why such great machinery innovations of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as the steam-engine, the spinning-jenny or the Bessemer furnace need be introduced into the experience of a country before its people are permitted the advantages of twentieth-century scientific wonders. Surely, if we are ever to eliminate the immense disparities that now separate the living standards of rich and poor,

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