

uniformity that denies the historical foundation of peoples and cultures, that harms the individual values of each society and closes off genuine channels of co-operation and solidarity.

Canada and Mexico are becoming increasingly associated with each other through initiatives and common viewpoints and through their responsible participation in international affairs. Today there is particularly strong need to make our continent a place of converging ideals and an area privileged with understanding and progress, and to establish new relations that are more dynamic, more productive and more just.

This is so because today the international community is immersed in increasing uncertainty in the face of power politics, hegemonic zeal, political intolerance and profound economic imbalances that are so harmful to developing countries.

The world would seem to be skidding down the slope devised by the promoters of the use of power. Technological development has relentlessly built up a deposit of destruction and terror. Both usable weapons and the leftovers of war are employed in attacks on the survival and dignity of mankind. While innumerable people are afflicted by hunger, unhealthy conditions, ignorance and death, millions are being spent to build an apocalyptic arsenal that is becoming increasingly difficult to control and presents a great risk of thoughtless use. We are witnessing an irrational cult to the capacity for self-destruction and to excessive spending to build power.

Mexico has categorically repudiated the validity of doctrines of deterrence and nuclear balance which have jeopardized the legitimate aspirations of nations to live in peace, to seek economic development, political stability and social progress through just and equitable co-operation.

It is imperative that measures be taken to prevent the destruction of all that represents the cumulative efforts of modern civilization. The aberrational idea that not acting is equivalent to avoiding risk must be abandoned. Eluding responsibilities multiplies the effect of lack of foresight and, sooner or later, the price of remaining passive must be paid.

In this context, Mexico has followed with particular interest the development of the peace initiatives recently undertaken by Prime Minister Trudeau, which led to his interviews with leaders of the superpowers and with those of other countries that possess nuclear weapons and of numerous industrialized and developing nations. We congratulate this outstanding contemporary statesman who, with his political imagination, courage and capacity for leadership, has successfully furthered the cause of peace and development.

Mexico fully supports all action aimed at halting the arms race and reaffirms its commitment to complete and universal disarmament and to dialogue and negotiation as Sole means of achieving understanding.

We do not want a return to the dark days in which the alternative to confrontation was an unstable peace, subject to cycles of dependence on armamentism. On the contrary, we want constructive times of stability and progress through co-operation. The crisis that is now shaking the very founda-

tions of world order makes this an ideal time to re-examine our course and adjust our objectives. The current problems affect us all and also tend, although in varying degree, to increase for us all. In looking toward the future, each country must decide whether it will act in favour of a collective effort or to pursue sterile and egotistical interests in isolation.

Two indivisible imperatives weigh on mankind's aspirations, peace and development. We recognize, with concern, that the instruments for achieving them are becoming more and more fragile. In addition to political tensions, we are faced with economic uncertainty, breakdowns in negotiation and the outright obsolescence of models and systems that have not provided the answers required today. Once again, the burdens of the crisis and of adjustments are being transferred to the developing countries and the lack of equity in the international structure is becoming more serious.

It is not enough to recognize that interdependence has only exceptionally led to the level of understanding and co-operation required. It is also necessary to prevent the lack of dialogue between the North and the South on behalf of world economic recovery from becoming part of the vicious circle of confrontation between hegemonic powers, or of irreducible opposition between East and West based on unilateral and ideologically motivated views, that violates sovereignties and delays or cancels out any real hope of independent progress.

The economic crisis is making inequality more acute, increasing contradictions and undermining the foundations of the international order. Recession and generalized inflation, the contraction in trade and the reappearance of protectionism, monetary and financial chaos, and the foreign debt are all manifestations of a divided world, incapable of achieving cohesion and rationality.

Sustained recovery will not be possible if it does not extend to every member of the international community.

The crisis that is affecting the developing world will not be settled without the concerted action of the international community. The problem of the debt is of a global nature. It affects all of us, and we should all contribute to solving it: industrialized and developing countries, debtors and creditors, and public and private financing institutions. To meet their loan payments, debtor countries need to regenerate their capacity to pay, and that will only be possible if their export products have access to the markets of the industrialized countries. At the same time, such access is the only possibility for strengthening their purchasing power abroad and re-establishing world trade flows. Attempts to do otherwise are not only unfair but also unrealistic. We trust that this point will be fully understood.

If the protectionism of the industrialized countries does not give way to the logic of reality, meeting demands for generating foreign exchange to cover development needs will prove an extremely complex task. Eventually an illogical situation would arise that would lead to undesirable forms of involution as a substitute for progress.