

Mr. President, now is not a time for complacency. That we are succeeding in some parts of the world means we have yet to succeed in others. That we have solved some problems means there are many yet to solve.

In Lebanon, a grave situation continues, and while we take heart from constitutional progress made in the past year, all members of the international community - collectively and individually - must make efforts to restore Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In the Middle East, although the world is focused on the Gulf, the continuing Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli disputes are unresolved and threatening. A just and lasting negotiated solution based on the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, including their right to self-determination, is more vital than ever.

In the Western Sahara, some progress has been made through the great efforts of the Secretary General to encourage dialogue directed to peace. The real difficulties persist and a settlement has yet to be reached.

And in the Horn of Africa, the cycle of conflict, poverty and starvation continues. While we can take pride in the way the UN and its agencies provided food to those in need, only a lasting political solution will end the terrible curse of famine in that region.

Around the world, the challenge is all too clear:

- unequal levels of development which perpetuate poverty and spawn conflict;
- a world population which will expand by 3.5 billion over the next three and a half decades;
- 14 million children dying each year from illness and hunger;
- a generation debilitated by drugs;
- the proliferation of weapons - chemical, nuclear and conventional;
- and an ailing environment, whose air is being poisoned, whose oceans and lakes are becoming cesspools and whose forests are being destroyed as if they were disposable.

That is not the picture of a planet of promise. It is the picture of a planet in pain.

My own country, Canada, is a place blessed by Providence. We are prosperous. We are free. We are at peace. But we too have