

inherent in the current arms race. And here, once again, I'm sure you will understand that this is a subject which again could occupy many hours not only of talk but of discussion, but it is sufficient for me to say this evening that to me 1977 is a very crucial year in that vitally important field, not only important in the sense that it heightens the possibility of even inadvertent war, but also important in the sense that it is diverting such scandalously large sums of money into the arms race when so much of the world is in such incredible poverty and need.

And that brings me to the fourth and final area where I believe there will be great need for wisdom and vision in the Security Council in the United Nations in '77 and in the years beyond, and that is in the area that has come to be called the North-South dialogue. This is such a complex subject that it is virtually impossible without the to and fro of questioning and discussion in small groups, to deal with it adequately. But the simple truth of the matter is that we have a situation in the world today -- perhaps brought to a head by the O.P.E.C. country developments -- that we have a situation in which the vast majority of the people of the world, the vast majority of the countries of the world, are in a deplorable condition economically and in every other imaginable way.

It occurred to me the other day, for instance, when I was looking at some statistics, that a simple way to try to convey the scope of the world's poverty is that there are 900 million families -- people rather -- in the world whose income in a year is only half of what a Canadian family with two teenage children receives from family allowances alone. If you can think about it in those terms it gives you some kind of a conception of why we are facing, in the under-developed world, not only a challenge to our magnanimity, but I suggest in a very real sense, a challenge, ultimately, to our survival. Because until we can find a suitable means of sharing more equally not just in the kind of welfare manner of much of the past, but in a way which gives these people in these countries hope for the future, until we can find some means for doing that, then there will invariably be the kinds of mounting suspicion that have led to voting blocs in the United Nations, that have led to, in some measure at least, such repugnant resolutions as the association of Zionism and racism.

All of these things are a reflection, at least in part, of that ferment that is going on in the under-developed world. And so the North-South dialogue is reflected now in the C.I.E.C. Conference in Paris of which my colleague and predecessor, Allan MacEachen, is Co-Chairman. That forum must make progress because, unless it does, unless the developed countries are prepared to demonstrate clearly what they are prepared and willing to do by way of commodity agreements, whatever form they take, by way of debt forgiveness or easing for some of the poorest countries, and in a whole range of other areas,