

continue to press multilateral development banks to devote more attention to environmental concerns in the design and implementation of projects.

The Brundtland Commission was another major milestone. As a result of its efforts, we now have a far greater understanding of "sustainable development", and a strategy that we must apply to achieve it, nationally and internationally. The focus must be on structural changes needed to integrate environmental and economic decisions both in government and in business. Brundtland's advocacy of the involvement of an informed public should spur such integration - and it certainly justifies the UNEP's existence.

We cannot let the momentum of the Brundtland Commission stall.

It may seem odd to have come to Africa to talk of caribou and acid rain, but the interdependence between the environmental and mankind's activity knows no regional or continental bounds. Cattle raising techniques in Southern Africa and in East Africa threaten wildlife habitat. The overuse of fertilizers by farmers in western countries threatens to poison the water table and thus the long-term arability of the land. Deforestation in Africa is contributing at an alarming rate to soil erosion and desertification. Lakes I flew over yesterday, near Nakuru, bear witness to this phenomenon.

A world-wide consciousness must be developed and maintained. The United Nations is essential to that task. Canada wants to restate its priority and commitment to the environment as an issue, and to the United Nations as an instrument.