

Mr. President,

Let me express, at the outset of my remarks, the pleasure and confidence that the Government of Canada derives from the fact that you, Sir, have been elected to preside over this session of the General Assembly. It marks the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, and the proceedings of this most important session could not be in more capable hands. We know that you will bring to the deliberations of this global organization the judgement and wisdom of which the councils of Europe have been, for so long, the beneficiaries.

We are pleased to welcome among us the delegations from Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, and from Mozambique following accession of these states to the United Nations. Their presence represents a further important step by this Organization on the road towards universality of membership.

SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION

You are, Mr. President, taking office at a time when our organization is at a decisive juncture in international affairs. Increasingly, our preoccupations are with global economic and social disparities and opportunities. These are also political questions of grave concern, comparable and indeed related in scope and importance to those of international peace and security.

Last week, at our Seventh Special Session on these very issues, we at last made some headway toward the reduction of these disparities. We agreed on steps necessary to move towards a new international economic order. We were able to agree because the time was ripe--indeed overripe--to move forward in a creative way on these complex issues.

We must now commit our attention and energies to sustaining this will, and to implementing the decisions that we have taken to reform our world economic system to reflect our interdependence. We must recognize too our respective peoples' need to be brought into these efforts. We have given undertakings on their behalf; undertakings to provide those of the world's peoples who constitute a majority--those who are in want--their full measure of social and economic justice.

I think that we all appreciate the urgency of this fundamental task, Mr. President. Otherwise we would not have achieved the remarkable degree of cooperation which characterized our intense, and most serious effort during the Special Session. It is important that we pursue our objective--and we have only just begun--in the same spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. This is the most effective way for our organization to work. This is also the most effective way to ensure that our peoples retain their confidence in our Organization's ability to solve our urgent and overriding problems.