

are threatened by forces of industrialization and urbanization. Governments have a primary role to play, both individually and through appropriate international co-operation in which the UN can have an important part. Experience in developed areas in the world, regardless of the economic and social system under which they have been developed, points up the problems facing now, or likely to face, all countries as the technological age embraces more and more of mankind.

The Canadian delegation is convinced that the time has come when the world community, as represented in this organization, must give attention to the problems of human environment. We must do this with a sense of concern and urgency and in a spirit of international co-operation. We must do this in the realization that all of us have a great deal to learn about the problems of human environment, that mistakes committed in developed areas need not be repeated elsewhere, that developing countries in particular have an opportunity, through the application of new techniques, to take preventive steps which may enable them to avoid some of the more horrendous consequences of abuse of the human environment.

### Prevention and Control

Our experience has shown us that prevention and control measures must now form an integral part of our industrial and urban programmes. We believe that such measures should also form an integral part of the development plans of the developing countries so that the excessive costs of carelessness can be avoided and the economies of comprehensive planning achieved. Apart from the contribution that would be made to the welfare of their people, such an approach would also make a direct contribution to economic development in the developing countries by providing, at an early stage, and at a fraction of the cost, a degree of environmental control that the developed countries will now be able to achieve only at a very high price. We would submit, therefore, that the time has arrived when developing countries will want to take due account, in their development planning, of the implications for the human environment. We should all be prepared to play our part in encouraging and contributing to this essential aspect of economic development.

Thus the steps that each country takes, or fails to take, in improving our environment by reducing pollution are of great importance to the rest of the world, because our environment is continuous. The same air envelops us all; the water which falls from the sky, flows through our lands and joins the coasts of all countries is one. The pollution which any country contributes to the human environment unavoidably affects the rest of the world. Each of us can reduce our output of pollution, but we shall remain the helpless victims of those who fail to do so. Therefore, not only national efforts but international co-operation must be encouraged and increased for the general benefit of mankind on an increasingly populous planet.

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