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SHARING THE WEALTH OF THE WORLD

The following passages are from an address by Prime Minister Trudeau on May 13 to a convocation gathering marking the diamond jubilee of the University of Alberta:

...Never before in history has the disparity between the rich and the poor, the comfortable and the starving, been so extreme; never before have mass communications so vividly informed the sufferers of the extent of their misery; never before have the privileged societies possessed weapons so powerful that their employment in the defence of privilege would destroy the haves and the have-nots indiscriminately. We are faced with an overwhelming challenge. In meeting it, the world must be our constituency.

I can find no better words to express this view than those employed in General Principle Four of the Final Act of the 1964 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: "Economic development and social progress should be the common concern of the whole international community and should, by increasing economic prosperity and well-being, help strengthen peaceful relations and co-operation among nations."

Pope Paul VI, in his fifth encyclical, was even more concise: "...the new name for peace is development...."

The distinguished Secretary-General of the United Nations has spoken out eloquently in the same vein on many occasions respecting United Nations Development Decade.

These references to assistance and to co-operation relate not only to economic assistance. They relate to assistance in any form that will create the political, economic and human dignity. International activities of this breadth are a far cry

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from the earlier and more primitive conceptions of direct financial assistance. In their impact and in their value, they are also a long way from charity and philanthropy. If the Canadian goal is to assist other states in this way, then we are involved with humanity. And we are involved for our mutual benefit.

BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

I emphasize this because, when one benefits from an activity, one is less likely to object to its cost. How do we benefit? In several respects:

(a) A world community of nations freely co-operating should result in a lessening of international tension. This would lead to a world less susceptible to war. Canada and Canadians would become more secure, and in this troubled world, that would be benefit beyond measure.

(b) A multiplicity of nations possessing expanding economies would mean that standards of living would rise and world markets would multiply. Canadian products would find more purchasers, and for a trading nation such as Canada, that would be a benefit of great value.

(c) In times of peace, men have turned their attention towards the development of their cultures and the enrichment of life. Canadians live more meaningfully by enjoying the works of artists and scholars of whatever national source, and that is a benefit of unquestioned value.