

The conjunction of these two developments is particularly striking in the field of international affairs. People are urged daily by the press, radio and television to form opinions, to hold views, in other words to take a personal interest in world affairs. But it is difficult for most people to find an appropriate outlet for this interest once it has been created. In my own country, for example, there is a rapidly growing interest in international affairs, and a desire on the part of many Canadians to become involved in some way in helping to overcome the many problems which face the world.

It is against this background that my delegation welcomes the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee that 1965 be designated as International Cooperation Year. We believe that this year should enable individuals and groups in Canada and elsewhere who are engaged in cooperating with similar individuals and groups in other countries to gain increasing recognition and public support for their work. This should permit them to consolidate or expand their existing activities, and perhaps to develop new activities. As a result of International Cooperation Year comparable organizations in different countries which are not now in contact should be able to enter into fruitful relations to their mutual benefit. The Year might also lead, through international assistance and encouragement, to the establishment of new voluntary organizations in countries where they do not now exist, which could then participate in useful cooperation with existing organizations in other countries.

It will be apparent that my delegation is attracted by International Cooperation Year because it offers an opportunity to men and women the world over to participate personally in direct cooperative activities. Needless to say we do not think that International Cooperation Year is without significance for governments, but in countries such as Canada, many functions are carried on by voluntary organizations which in other societies are conducted by