

Delegation spoke about the recently concluded Conference to Combat Desertification and endorsed its plan of action. Finally, the statement announced the Canadian contribution of \$1 million to the Environment Fund for 1978.

The statement was given by Mr. John Small, Canadian Delegate to the Second Committee, October 20, 1977.

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The subject of environment is not controversial. Indeed, environmental issues are ones which, to a considerable degree, have been dealt with in international fora by consensus. Does this consensus signify a lack of interest in such issues? To the contrary. It is the view of the Canadian Delegation that it is due to recognition of the environmental imperative. Renewable and non-renewable resources are the bases of most economies and the very basis of growth. Consequently, every country and every region must examine with care the implications of current and expected rates of use of renewable and non-renewable resources as well as the environmental impact of their exploitation.

Still not enough is known about the functioning of the world's ecological system for us to arrive at definitive conclusions at what the outer limits of growth are. Nevertheless, it is clear that the earth's resources are not inexhaustible, and, in particular cases, conservation and planned development are vital to sustained economic development. The United Nations Environment Programme has stimulated research into what specific environmental constraints and opportunities exist, in addition to undertaking its own research into the matter. Studies such as the programme on "Man and the Biosphere" carried out under the auspices of UNESCO, "Future of the World Economy" under the leadership of Dr. Wassily Leontief, and "Project 2000" designed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, are major contributions to the examination of the consequences of alternative patterns of development. The correlation between poverty and deplorable environmental conditions is all too visible and obvious for the basic interrelationship not to be a principal focus of developmental effort.

We are convinced that the automatic consideration of the environmental consequences of our actions should reinforce the development process. Such considerations are positive. They allow us to choose appropriate development patterns that encourage wise use of resources and ensure that new practices do not destroy the resources upon which they are based. In Canada, at the national level, we have recently developed environmental guidelines that provide for review of environmental impact before development of new federal projects begins. This approach is also increasingly being examined for application to cooperative development projects abroad. Although not a direct result of this policy, an interesting example of this approach was the