

The processes of change have been gathering momentum since that time. Three years ago the present Director-General pointed out that "international organization is still in its earliest childhood. The needs, the problems and the achievements of today would have astounded the pioneers of a generation ago".

He pointed out also that: "Those responsible for the direction and guidance of the world bodies can never forget the fragility of these organizations, the need to build up world confidence by moving from sure precedent to sure precedent, reinforcing agreed norms with well-conceived action, conforming scrupulously to the gradually elaborating law and principles of the world community".

The growth towards a genuine world community whose members could both live in peace and assert their diverse characteristics in freedom is a slow one. Nevertheless, the development of an international conscience about welfare and peace, stimulated to such an important extent by the work of the ILO itself, has led to a flowering of international institutions. Each of these has its particular mandate and each relates its work to the general task of promoting peace and economic and social development in the world.

It is correct, therefore, to stress the fact, as Mr. Morse has done, that the first general characteristic of the ILO is a commitment to peace. The Organization has always manifested its concern both for the most modest technical improvements in the working conditions of daily life and for the ultimate issues of war and peace.

In this conference we shall be studying social policy and economic development in the Americas. The prospects for peace in the world generally and in this Hemisphere will determine how rapidly this development can proceed.

Canada intends to make its contribution to the achievement of political stability and to the increase in economic welfare in this part of the world

- a) by working through any channels open to us towards the lessening of world tensions which threaten all regions;
- b) by strengthening the friendly relations already existing between Canada and the other nations of this region; and
- c) by participating in economic projects which will assist developing nations in the Caribbean and Latin America.

World Tensions

In spite of some serious problems, there are not as many barriers to peaceful change and economic development arising out of international political tensions in this part of the world as in other regions. Canada has not known armed conflict with its nearest neighbour since the early nineteenth century. Our developing relations with nations farther away in the Hemisphere have proceeded always in the ways of peace.

These relations with all independent nations in North, Central and South America have a solid basis in political interests, co-operation within the United Nations, trade and, to an increasing extent, economic assistance. I welcome the steady growth of mutual respect and understanding.