

ensure that our peoples retain their confidence in our organization's ability to solve our urgent and overriding problems.

We know clearly that there is a need to enhance the role and capacity of the UN in the economic and social fields and thus bring them into a better and more balanced relation with the political objectives and functions of the organization.

At its recent special session, the General Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee to initiate a restructuring process of this very kind. One of the main documents before it will be the report of experts entitled *A New United Nations Structure for Global Economic Co-operation*. The experts have correctly identified the main weaknesses of the UN system and have made a number of recommendations and suggestions that would improve the balance between the functional or sectoral and the political elements in the system.

I should like to commend to the new intergovernmental committee as well the report of a group of experts convened by the member states of the Commonwealth that is entitled *Towards a New International Economic Order*, which has been circulated as a UN document.

Convinced as we are that the UN must be made more responsive to the needs and concerns of its members, my Government intends to play an active and constructive part in the Ad Hoc Committee to strengthen the UN system so that it may carry forward its programs in working towards a new economic order.

The construction of a new international economic order is but one of the many important preoccupations of the international community at the present time. Population, food, human settlements, and the law of the sea are other global problems that demand the attention of the United Nations.

Of these many global problems, I would like now to speak about the law of the sea, in which Canada plays a particular role.

Law of the sea

One of the most important but least recognized functions of the United Nations is the regular and persistent efforts it makes to contribute to a stable world order through the progressive development of international law. The law of the sea is a dynamic example.

We are developing new rules that reflect the growing awareness of the interdependence of nations and the need for preservation of the marine environment and the conservation of its resources. I have no
