

In its first 40 years, the U.N. has made an inestimable contribution to building a framework for a global system that responds to the technological interdependence and vulnerability of modern society. Technology has revealed the common qualities of the entire human family. Everyone wants to avoid the scourge of war. Everyone wants the opportunity for economic development. Everyone wants the guarantee of full human rights. The tackling of these common demands is the daily work of the United Nations.

If there are frailties in the U.N, and there are, if there is some ineptitude, and there is, let us this year celebrate the U.N.'s endurance and accomplishments while resolving to improve procedures.

In conflicts prevented, in disputes mediated, in the eradication of diseases, in world-wide development progress, in the saving of countless human lives, the United Nations has enriched human existence. It has done all this on a budget that is less than \$1 per year for every inhabitant of the planet.

The United Nations should not need to be defended. But it does, and I emphasize that Canada not only defends the U.N. but will work to strengthen it, and other parts of the multilateral system. This is the way toward the peace and the growth, the freedom and the justice, which the world needs.

The challenges facing the multilateral system reach beyond this institution. Questions are being raised about whether the world will work together, or whether nations will draw back to their individual devices. Whether the issue is debt or trade or culture, whether the nations are rich or poor, large or small, there is a renewal of doubt about the international system. Developing countries, again this week, at this podium, threatened to abandon an international monetary system they believe has abandoned them. Trade protectionist pressures are rampant, and dates are delayed for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. Expenditures on arms increase; so does terrorism; so have regional conflicts.

If that continues, we will all be the victims. Certainly a country like Canada is imperilled if nations cannot agree on the rules of trade, or the relief of debt, or the control of arms. Twenty-four years ago, 12% of our gross national product was based on exports; today this figure has more than doubled. When the United Nations began, Canada was relatively unaffected by violent sectarian disputes in other countries; today we, like the world, are targets of terrorists. Forty years ago, drugs, or technology or the