

examined carefully. They will then have an opportunity to influence Canadian positions at Cancun — but it would be unrealistic for you to expect any general agreement at Cancun on your issues — or indeed on any substantive issues.

For the government to involve itself actively in North-South issues, we fully recognize that we will need the support, if not at times the initiative, of the Canadian public. To that end, we will need to facilitate their increased awareness and involvement. This is a key objective of the new Futures Secretariat, the concept for which derived in part from last year's first Global Conference on the Future which was in part sponsored and organized by your association. I am pleased that the Secretariat is now largely in place and has published its first information bulletin. At the same time, I welcome the efforts of numerous other Canadian non-government organizations, including your own, to give North-South issues and, in particular, Canada's role in the future dialogue, the attention it deserves.

This is to say, I suppose, that the future, like the present, depends entirely on people and especially on their awareness and their goodwill. If the future people of the North understand the problems of their world and are properly motivated, then I believe we can be optimistic about the future. In the long run, our best hope is that the more fortunate in worldly terms will continue to care about the well-being of those less fortunate.

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