

preferred the more measured and established procedures, we nonetheless succeeded in moving the refugees to Canada in two weeks.

We believe that, in any co-ordinated international effort, the national responses will vary, and should vary, as best accords with the resources and capabilities of each country. Both financial contributions and resettlement places are required. Some countries can provide both, while others can more productively seek to provide one or the other.

The measures we are discussing here touch only the manifestations of a phenomenon the origins of which lie in the political and social evolution of the countries of exodus. It is the responsibility of these countries to find a true long-term solution. This is not the occasion to discuss root causes in any detail. Suffice it to say that we have done so in other contexts, notably the United Nations General Assembly, and we intend to continue doing so until we see some amelioration. But any meeting of this kind should make it clear that the international community holds the countries of exodus responsible for the welfare of all their citizens, whatever their racial origin or their economic circumstances. It should not hesitate to make a clear humanitarian-inspired call upon those countries to make whatever adjustments are necessary to ease the situation that is engendering so much deprivation and suffering.

We are aware of the serious economic situation that exists in the countries of exodus. Apart from the broader economic problems, there exists a very serious food shortage, which has been compounded by recent severe flooding. To the extent that the refugee outflow is encouraged by a poor economic situation, the institution of multilateral and bilateral assistance measures may help somewhat to reduce the flow of refugees.

For purely humanitarian reasons, the international community might, perhaps, wish to respond. It has been the case for Canada, which has provided substantial assistance to one of the Southeast Asian countries of exodus. Nonetheless, our disposition in this regard would doubtless be strengthened if the countries of exodus showed a greater attachment to the fundamental rights and needs of all their citizens.

Given the magnitude of the problem and the complexity of the necessary solution, it is doubtful that two days are sufficient to our task. For this reason, my delegation believes that, at this stage, our first priority must be to reach consensus on the necessity for broad participation in an international plan of action such as the High Commissioner has outlined. We must support all the measures proposed by the High Commissioner, but first of all, and above all, those that address themselves to the immediate needs of the refugees — namely, temporary asylum, a more equal sharing of the burden among countries of first asylum and permanent resettlement. If we reach an understanding on these points and engage the participation of a sufficiently large number of countries, we shall have made important progress.

2) 242

1232 S/C