

Finally, we have been working to ensure lasting international peace through arms control and disarmament measures. A member of every major disarmament forum since the Second World War, Canada helped to achieve such advances as the ban on atmospheric nuclear tests in 1963 and the treaty on the peaceful uses of outer space which was signed last year. We have been engaged in the arduous negotiations in Geneva and New York over a period of more than two and a half years to work out a universal treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. Our efforts -- and those of many other countries -- are, we hope, close to bearing fruit as the Geneva Disarmament Committee is aiming at the presentation of an agreed draft treaty to the United Nations for consideration in a short time. It is a long, difficult process, in which the notable gains are often obscured by inevitable setbacks, but necessary considering the threat to world security posed by an escalation of the nuclear-arms race and the prospect of nuclear arms spreading to a score of countries around the globe. Our ultimate aim is general and complete disarmament; we must press on patiently but resolutely with our international efforts to reach that objective..

The second major area of Canadian foreign policy lies in the field of economics. The potential for economic growth and development through the world is unlimited. This applies both to the developed and to the less-developed nations. Canadian foreign economic policy has been directed to translating the potential for growth into reality. Canada is an internationalist country. We believe that only through co-operation among nations, through multilateral and bilateral negotiation and agreement, can we maintain real economic progress. Only through a dramatic but sustained effort can we narrow the gap between rich and poor nations.

There is evidence that poverty and instability are causally connected. We cannot remind ourselves too often that the outlook for a stable world order is dim indeed if the majority of the globe's population are frustrated in their legitimate hope for a better life. As I emphasized at the last General Assembly, hunger, disease, poverty and ignorance threaten the peace just as surely as disputes over frontiers or antagonism between races. Poor countries must be given the assistance required to supplement their own efforts to "take off" economically. International development assistance cannot do the job alone, but it seems to be an essential ingredient.

Canada has responded to the needs of the third world. We began slowly back in 1950. But in the past four years we have made great strides forward. We have tripled our aid allocations. We have extended our assistance to more than 60 countries in three continents. We are making good progress towards reaching our objective -- the international aid goal of one per cent of national income.

Just as important as the size or extent of the programmes has been the involvement of the Canadian people. This support has manifested itself in personal participation by thousands of Canadians, sometimes in official programmes, often in non-governmental programmes such as the Canadian University Service Overseas and, most recently, in the Canadian Executive Services Overseas. Canadians see that we have a vital part to play in international development, that we must combat the trends which have resulted in a levelling-off or reduction of development funds in other Western countries. Indeed, we must encourage an even greater effort everywhere.