

serve to hasten this process. Brazil is a particularly striking case in point. Reforestation programmes are quite unable to cope with this tendency. In the Third World the number of trees planted amount to only ten percent of those cut down and compensation programmes are quite inadequate. Even industrialized countries like Canada are not replanting a sufficient number of trees and are therefore in no position to preach about this to such countries as Indonesia and Brazil.

The situation concerning drinking water is almost as bad. Consumption of drinking water has also doubled since 1940 and certain rivers are likely to become sources of conflict between neighbouring states. The Nile and the Ganges are examples of this.

The warming of the atmosphere is irreversible. In Mr. MacNeill's opinion the best we can hope to do is slow this process down or possibly stabilize the situation in the long term, but only if governments take immediate action. A first step in this direction would be to ratify the Montreal Protocol which aimed at imposing a complete ban on the production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by the year 2000. This would reduce the warming process by fifteen percent. The participants in the Toronto Conference agreed that the industrialized world should aim to reduce, by the year 2005, carbon dioxide emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels to eighty percent of the 1988 level. Mr. MacNeill suggested that the oil industry and the hydro electric companies should be obliged to undertake reforestation programmes to make up for the adverse effects of their activities on the environment. An international fund for the atmosphere could be created, to be financed by a tax on the use of fossil fuels in industrialized countries. Above all, governments must stop subsidizing the use of fossil fuels and devote their energies to promoting other types of energy. The current situation, according to the speaker, is quite unprecedented and we must stop promoting economic growth without paying attention to the way this is depleting our natural resources. It is essential that from now on our economic policies respect the environment.

In order to ensure global security we must come to terms with the ecological problems. Jim MacNeill maintained that nations could protect their security much more effectively by spending money on the environment rather than buying costly military equipment. Every day the world spends US \$2.7 billion on arms and many countries devote more to their defence budgets than to development, health, education and the environment combined. The amount needed to undertake serious programmes to counter-