

OTTAWA PUBLIC HEARINGS

MORNING SESSION  
May 27, 1986

Tapes 16 to 19

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OTTAWA, CANADA  
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TAPE 16 - SIDE 1  
Morning Session

W.H. Lindner

We wish to encourage comments from the floor, observations alternative views and other positions, but we also want to give the maximum number of people the opportunity to express their views. So would you please try to be considerate and remember to attempt to keep your comments from the floor to approximately three minutes. Every minute or two minutes you go over that could perhaps deprive someone else and one of your colleagues from the opportunity to express his views.

We had some terrible time constraints yesterday and we were unable to accommodate everyone's wishes to speak to certain issues, so if you keep that in mind, it would be most appreciated. Two practical things that I would like to request is that: when anyone does speak, if you could be sure to introduce yourself when you do speak so that we have a record of who have made comments and secondly, if you do have a speaking tacks or notes that you have used in speaking from the floor it would be most helpful if you could leave a copy of those with us. If you see Ms. Julie Vanderschot after the session, she will quickly get it copied for you so you can keep the original if you would like. Now, Mrs. Brundtland commence the session.

Mrs. Brundtland

Good morning, we are looking forward to this morning's Public Hearings and the first one to have the floor is Ralph Torrie, Fate of the Earth, on Pollution, Poverty and Power.

Ralph Torrie

Prime Minister Brundtland and members of the Commission, I am here this morning on behalf of a group of Canadian non-governmental organizations which have come together this past few months to organize a conference which will be held here in Ottawa entitled "The Third Bi-Annual Conference on the Fate of the Earth".

Leaders from Canadian organizations concerned with social justice and international development with environment and peace have come together to plan this innovative conference because they believe that poverty, pollution and militarism have common roots in an unjust and outmoded development paradigm that benefits a few at the expense of both the poor of today and the future well-being of us all.

When we, as a group of Canadian non-governmental organizations agree to host the third Bi-Annual conference on the Fate of the Earth, we decided to launch a much larger process. A process that would encourage environment development and peace groups from every part of Canada to meet together on a regional basis to explore their common concern and seek ways of working together in the future. And such meetings have now been held in Victoria, White Horse, Abbington, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Frederickton, Halifax and Saint Johns. And the work of this Commission has been the subject of discussions at all these meetings. Your excellent discussion, document mandate for change has been distributed at these meetings and has been very helpful to us in focusing our own discussions.

over four hundred leaders from Canadian voluntary organizations have now participated in these meetings. I have the privilege of attending all of them and I am really here today to present something of an interim report on the consensus that is emerging on this connection in Canada. Everywhere, one finds an awareness, an easy awareness that we have arrived there in an historical moment. A moment of profound change yet everywhere one also finds a sense of frustration, a sense that our institutions are not meeting the challenges of today. We approach them in a world in which global interdependence is clearly the central reality but where absolute poverty and environmental degradation cloud our vision of a common future. And where geo-political climate dominated by nuclear terrorism, an increasing militarisation saps the idealism of the young and the world to dream in us all.

For all that, the fate of the Earth process in Canada is an inspiring one and if our present institutions seem unable to rise to the problem and challenges we are facing, it is well to remember the historical role of ordinary people who pointed the way. The environmental agenda, for example, has come a long way from its root in the conservation movement. The concerns of modern day environmentalist extend far beyond their own backyards. They are becoming true internationalists and their concern is that they recognize that environment is indeed an international problem. Environment must also be an approach to development. Environment has a social justice issue and environment even as a peace and security issue.

Similarly, in the international development community, we have seen an expansion and a broadening of their agenda. Their practical experience at a local level and developing countries combined with an extensive development education network throughout Canada have confirmed to them that we do indeed live in a global village, that the absolute poverty in the Third World as a result of the same global economic system that ensures a good life from most Canadians, while forcing others out of their farms, out of work, or into bankruptcy.

It is to convince them that environment degradation and economic hardship are both caused and in fact in a vicious circle, the too often hits the poorest hardest and the development itself is imperiled by the growing militarisation. They cannot deliver the security they promises. Peace and international security issues are also high in the agenda of Canadian voluntary organizations. And if these issues seem somewhat removed from environment and development, it is only a measure of how far we have strayed from the post-war realisation that global security could only be achieved collectively by working for an equitable world order that guarantee the rights and well-being of all its people.

In Canada, we are caught literally in the middle of a nuclear arms contest between the superpowers and which there can be no winner. We find ourselves in alliances which were meant to be strictly for collective defense but which are being increasingly pressured to serve us to..., aggressively destabilizing bankrupt balance of terror with ultimate sanction of nuclear violence. Superpowers lead a growing international culture of violence in militarisation. It is absolutely incompatible with and diametrically opposed to global security development, environment and integrity.

Perhaps, no other field of human endeavour ever have a government, an institution failed us so completely. From ...Oaks in 1945 to the present day, ordinary people have said no to militarism and nationalism and yes to disarmament development in collective security. It is not surprising therefore that peace movement in Canada and around the world is joining with environment and development organizations and working towards a common vision of the future. The vision for sustainable development.

The connections that are being made between these various issues are elaborated on in a little bit more detail in a written version of my paper this morning. I would like to use what time I have left to comment especially on the road non-

governmental organizations in developing alternative and positive visions for the future. We don't know everything there is to know about the connections between these issues but what we do know is sufficient to convince us that the persistent problem of environmental deterioration, absolute poverty and escalating military violence will be sought together or not at all.

From every direction, environmental development, peace, social justice, women's group and indigenous people's organizations we see a convergence on a new paradigm for development. It is a paradigm for sustainable development. One that is more for the metaphor of the ecosystem than the machine, more to the science of ecology than mechanics. Environmental stability and social justice are inter-grouped to this model of development.

And while not so naive as to presume an empty ward does find terribly ludicrous about weapons technologies that permanently damaged the ability of the ecosphere to sustain life. The barriers to achieving sustainable development are great as might be expected in the major historical transformation but they are far from insurmountable.

Neither is there a shortage of practical suggestions and how to proceed and the Commission will doubtless have heard from or consulted with experts with respect to issues such as the conversion of military spending to peaceful application; the establishment of global resources as the common heritage of mankind; the overpowering of international aid and trade regime which is so important to environmental sustainability; the alleviation of the debt-burden on developing countries; the international control of transnational corporations; the adoption by nation state of international standards for environmental protection and rehabilitation.

Non-governmental organizations have traditionally and historically played their role of policy leadership of education and consciousness raising and the practical

innovation and bringing about sustainable development. In the written comments that I have filed with you this morning, I referred repeatedly to the many ways that non-governmental organizations have contributed in this way.

It is after all the environmental movement that led to and continuous to legitimise the existence of official government agencies and departments charged with responsibility for environmental protection. It is the popular peace movement that continuous to force reluctant political leadership to the bargaining table and even in the main spirit of 1980s. It is the persistence of the development NGO's with their broad days of supporting Canada that has presented even larger cutbacks in development assistance.

In the field of international development and peace and security issues, Canadian NGOS have an established leadership role in policy development that combines expert analysis with broad day's membership that ensure direct connection to the people. And even in the pledge environmental organizations with their meager level of government support, there is an established leadership role in policies related to energy and resource use and recycling. And it was surely be the case that non-governmental organizations with their inherent adaptability in responsiveness to peoples' needs and concerns will lead the way once again in policies for sustainable development.

All the practical suggestions for achieving this however will amount to nothing unless the political will to overcome the obstacles can be raised through public education and awareness raising processes in which NGO plays such a critical role. Many more people must be reached and the links between traditional issues must be emphasised. Canadian environment development and peace organizations are working together to raise these issues in their education and public awareness programs.

And, in fact one of the direct outcome of this series of meeting which was so largely stimulated by the Commission's visit to Canada is the emergence of several new projects, where environment and development organizations will be cooperating in their education programs. The inherent flexibility, adaptability and responsiveness of NGOs give them an advantage over established agencies and institution in developing innovative program at the grass roots level.

The role of NGOs in the transition to sustainable development will challenge this organizations to their limits. Development NGOs will need to work with environment, non-governmental organizations have much greater access to technical experts and has been the case in the past. Funding for public education and awareness program must be stepped up and special provision should be made for programs and projects that incorporate integrating principles of sustainable development. These organizations must be free to experiment, to innovate and to take risk, if they are to fulfill their historical leadership and educational role in the mandate for change which is the imperative of our times. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Brundtland

Any of the commissioners want to pose question at this point or we can take it later in the morning. Stanovnik.

Stanovnik

I think Madam, that it's may be better that we start the discussion immediately. I was recently at the U.N. panel on development and disarmament and I raised the proposal there, that there be an option for the youngsters to serve the military service instead of their own countries in the military ranks; that they would be free to go into the developing countries and work on public work projects. There was no follow-up of the proposal I prepared but this raised for me a question in connection with this endeavour which I must say I



am extremely enthusiastic about, but I would Madam like to submit a reflection and a question in this connection.

We are now in the developed world witnesses of something which I find extremely important. The merge between the environmental movement and the peace movement. There is now luckily and happily a very close integration of the two and I congratulate you on that. But I have a feeling that there is still not enough understanding of the intimate interrelationship in between this orientation and the developmental issue in the world.

Recently, we had an extremely encouraging development. I think the .... and now sportsmen's action which shows that there are the first step towards this direction. But I am afraid that we remain very much North centered and that this new democratic eruption of a very progressive trend in the world still does not have the right kind of understanding of the challenge which for mankind represents the southern issue of the blockage of development.

Could you may be enlighten us what your organization is doing and trying in integrating more fully, what I think being not just economy and ecology but what being the developmental challenge to the mankind and then its intimate interrelationship in which the security issue or disarmament issue and the ecological issue are seen from the northern perspective. I am not sure that I have made myself clear.

Ralph Torrie

Well, I'll see if I can answer you as concisely as you posed the question. I think that first of all, you raised the concern about the involvement of young people in some of these issues at the beginning. I think the Commission has before read a proposal for world conservation youth core which is worthy of serious consideration.

We have been discouraged in our efforts over the past few months to make these links between groups. There was the absence of young people at the meetings of the several hundred of the 400-500 people that have been involved in this regional consultations which submittedly were aimed at the leadership of these organizations. They were very few people under the age of 25 that seem to be involved and I think it makes this afternoon session perhaps one of the most important that the Commission will have here in Ottawa because the cloud of cynicism and the despair which seems to be hanging over the heads of this generation must be of concern to all of us.

As far as the connections between environment and development and peace issues it's really what the Fate of the Earth process and the conferences are all about.

And each of those communities is acting on their own way to reach out to the others and to try understand the analysis of the others. Increasing members of environmental groups in Canada, for example are twinning themselves with developing country organization with similar philosophies.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation which is the umbrella organization for all of the international development organizations in Canada which just held last week in Geneva Park and they unanimously endorsed a plan to launch a new project which will be specifically concerned about environment and development connections and were busy already this week raising the necessary funds to get on with that job.

So I think that there are a number of practical steps that are being taken in the non-governmental sector to make this connection. It's a long and difficult road. It's uncharted territory, we haven't really been here before but I am actually quite hopeful that people will as they have in the past come through with a new way of thinking about the future that will perhaps endanger the hope that will bring young people back into these discussions.

Mrs. Brundtland

Thank you, I think we will give now the floor to Paul Mouldon and Marcia Valiente who are sharing the issue of development assistance and the environment. The Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation: The Law of Eco-development.

Paul Mouldon

Good morning, Madam Prime Minister, commissioners and all participants here today. My name is Paul Mouldon and the co-presenter of this presentation is Marcia Valiente. The focus of our presentation is on emerging international law framework governing development and environment and Canada's commitment to and practice in the implementation of these international law principles. I will provide an overview to what we call the international law of eco-development and Marcia will examine the ... experience regard to this law. In discussing the role and importance of international law to environment and development two myths must be dispelled; first, too often international law is discounted as a viable and meaningful vehicle that guide the state behaviour. In reality, international environmental law is doing quite well.

A past few decade, especially since Stockholm, there has been a consistent movement towards strengthening of the legal regime pertaining to environmental protection and management. This legal regime is evidenced by over one hundred and ten international agreements universally, except that principle of law and state practice. It mandates a number of important duties which State have accepted as law, even now granted not all abide by this law.

Nevertheless, the very fact that there is non-compliance clearly does not indicate, there is no acceptance of international law itself. In fact, international law has been doing so well. It almost reached a universal point of

acceptance in consensus. Second, the traditional belief that obligations are only borne of decades of consistent practice is outdated in a world where mostly nations are less than 3 decades old.

International law is an organic creature and it can create duties at extremely rapid pace to adopt contemporary circumstances. As international law evolves, concepts of international law has been integrated interconnected and persuasive in other areas of international law itself. In particular, it is merged with the law of international development which traditionally rule things like development assistance, transfer of technology and the rights and duties over natural resources. When these two areas of law have converged it has created new duties, new concepts which supersede the earlier ones.

The result of this marriage is that we referred to the law of eco-development. It is the concept which combines the need to fulfill basic needs, emotional and self reliance and requirement to make development sustainable. What is the emerging norms or areas of consensus in this eco-development norms?

Well, eco-development norms suggest that every state has a role to play in development and we must ensure that environment considerations are integrated into the development policies in a non-sectoral or on cross-sectoral manner. We suggest that each state is under duty to improve their own environment and capability through increasing environmental law, environmental training and public awareness building.

We suggest that development policies and programs and activities must be viewed for regional perspective ensuring the management of ecosystems and non-pitted by political borders. That all shared resources are rationally allocated and provisions made for the reasonable use.

We recommend that the Commission recognises the emerging norms of international law and promote the development of mechanism at the national and international levels to facilitate implementation. We suggest this implementation may come about in two ways. One, the convening of an international conference. May we say a Stockholm 2 conference. The purpose of this conference would be to build upon the existing consensus and to reach a new consensus on appropriate human development strategies for the following decades.

Building upon this first proposal, to further recognise and particularise the international law of sustainable development to the conclusion of a general legal instrument, a world convention on eco-development. We have no answers on how to do this, how to find international consensus to meet the legal framework more meaningful and more productive. But we do know the certain key elements to this process. One is rather than having only states agree we think that before the state can agree to a point of having binding international law, it has to be a foundation laid through world public opinion.

The way this is done is through democratization of the environmental decision making process. International law occurs through a grass roots movement through public participation, access to information in due process. In other words, international law will work if people will believe their work and when people believe their work, states will believe their work.

We urge the Commission to take a bold initiative, forward-looking recommendations which will progress international law. Through this, you can have a tremendous role in influencing the emerging legal ... governing environment and development. Through this emerging four-looking way a consensus will be build. Thank you very much and now Marcia will look at the impact of these in Canada.

Mrs. Brundtland

Thank you very much.

Marcia Valiente

Thank you, good morning. Now that my colleague has described the emerging principles of international law that integrate environment and development, I would like to try to fit this principles into a Canadian perspective.

Coming at this topic from a Canadian perspective is important for three reasons. First, because national practice plays an important role in the development of international law. Any Canadian approaches which implement this principle could help shape the direction of international duties in this area.

Second, as an important contributor in the process of development in other nations, Canada has a direct influence on the practices of other nations.

Third, because international law, such as standard of conduct for all nations, is helpful for Canadians as well as for this Commission to consider to what extent Canada implements the international norm of eco-development. When we review Canada is to recognise that it contains examples of problems found throughout the world between nations. Canada is an industrialised nation but our most important industries are natural resource industries - forestry, agriculture, fisheries energy mining.

The sustainability of this resources is essential to the maintenance of our high standard of living. In addition, Canada is a vast country containing regions and peoples, as was described yesterday, who are developmentally disadvantaged. This makes sharing the wealth between have and have-not areas of the country and between peoples within our country an important political imperative.

Third, the political structure in this country is such that no one government has complete jurisdiction over environmental, economic or social matters. Thus, we are forced to act to co-operative arrangements between different levels of government, different regions and different peoples within our country.

The fourth characteristic, in Canada we have had more than 15 years experience with environment and protection law including experience with environmental assessment. But, we still face significant rights to our resource base on environment and our health.

What then are the lessons we can convey to the Commission from Canada's experience in environment and development from a legal point of view?

Unfortunately, there are few. Well, Canada and Canadians have had a continual influential presence in formulation of the major international instruments which shape the norms of eco-development. And also there seems to be a widespread recognition of the need integrating environment and development. Implementation of this principle lags behind.

One example of the failure to integrate environment and development is the presence of a glossy submission from the Minister of Environment on an environment and development presented to this commission. But where are the submissions from the minister of energy, mines and resources, industrial and regional expansion, and industry and trade. They don't exist.

Clearly, the next step must be to work for the implementation of the eco-development principles internationally, as Paul suggested, and nationally in Canada and in other nations. Because implementation represents a fundamental change in perspective, it is difficult to accomplish as everyone has so far agreed. A strategy for how to begin to effect such a

change is to target where changes must be made and to identify mechanisms for effecting the changes. It is here we believe that the Commission can plan in for ....

In general terms, changes must be made in policies of government and industries, in institutions and in laws addressing environmental matters. In Canada, and we suggest in other nations, specific changes required should include the following.

First, an economic policy of long term sustainable development. A change to anticipatory approach to environmental regulations, resource use and use of appropriate technology. The physical integration of government departments, increasing the environmental capability of industry, a formalized call for public and non-governmental organizations in environmental decision-making, the expansion of environment.

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TAPE 16 - SIDE 2

Morning

Cont. of M. Valiente's statement

judgment legislation a cross media approach to pollution control and regulation on an eco-system basis where appropriate. Generating support for this changes requires educational programs and widespread opportunities for discussion among government, industry, young people and other citizens, non-governmental organizations and academics. In our brief, we suggest ways how this can be accomplished within Canada.

I would like to conclude or to emphasize what our conclusions are. First of all, we feel that international laws are important framework within which to view the work of the Commission. Second, we feel that there is an emerging consensus respecting environment and development which already includes a number of broad duties. We also feel that many nations recognise the importance of these norms but have also failed to implement them. Another conclusion is that Canada's experience with environment and development shows that co-operation is possible even between widely dispersed regional capabilities and aspirations.

Further, we conclude that international law will be advanced by the identification and refinement of the elements of these broad duties. But that this advance will occur not only through the development of strategies for co-operative international action but also for action within each nation particularly by including our citizens and other non-governmental organizations in this process.

Finally, we feel very strongly that this Commission is in a pivotal position to catalyze the advance of international law by suggesting strategies for national and international action. Thank you very much.

Judge Singh

Madam, Chairperson, I think the two papers that have been submitted to the Commission merit our congratulations. The authors have had vision, they have been inspired by ideas and they have made a very good presentation. The Commission will always appreciate their efforts.

I have only a couple of questions to put to them. One is the importance they attached to the Stockholm Conference Resolutions and request for another convening of a conference of that type. It will be appreciated that resolutions of a conference have no binding force, they are soft law. It is only the provision of a convention which have been duly ratified and adhered to by States and which comes into operation that has the hard text, red letter of the law.

Therefore, while the conferences are very useful in crystallizing concept and putting forward very good valuable suggestions, you need some greater effort than the mere conference to put them into the text of law. For that purpose, the suggestion made by Mr. Mouldon and his associate are very comprehensive. They have recommended a convention. Well, that takes time.

The Commission can certainly put forward the text of the possible convention but one must be prepared that the sovereign States are not prone to accept legal regulation which ties up their sovereignty. The Law of the Sea Convention is an example. It has been widely accepted and it was the effort of mammoth working of the sovereign community of States, but it has not been ratified, it has not yet come into force.

Similarly may be the fate of a convention which may be proposed by the Commission. Would that be acceptable to the Canadian representatives who have formulated these papers or would it disappoint them? And what other measures would they propose if they think that a convention would not be ratified and that would register a failure in the effort to impart legal regulation to the resolution of environmental problems. I hope I have made myself clear.

Paul Mouldon

I quite agree with the problems we faced with our recommendations but I just like to spend a minute on what I view the role of the Commission and give you one concrete example.

I believe that the whole idea of law is also to regulate but it also has extremely important functions at advancing concepts. If this Commission took a bold initiative, almost a pre-law making function of advocating tremendously integrated concepts, then more or less, the international community will say, well, obviously this Commission is building upon a consensus, and there'll be more following.

And then it will progress into a cyclical motion, so that law in that sense is a consensus community-board sort of function. And that's what we're urging. It may still represent soft law, still may not be binding in a true sense but has a very, very important function and there's not many Commission such as yourself which can do this.

The idea of what we had at Stockholm is that what was where the real function. It was a creator of soft law but it also has a tremendous consensus building, and in that sense inherent law making function. And this is one of the few opportunities that we have in this decade, to do it something like this.

Let me give one concrete example. There has been a tremendous amount of work done on the Great Lakes. In 1972, a Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was signed. It was useful but it wasn't tremendously successful. In 1978, they re-negotiated the Agreement and with this Agreement between Canada and U.S. they used the ecosystem approach to regulation where they tried to look at the Great Lakes has one ecosystem even though there are 12 political jurisdictions which comprise the basin.

Now, not really, ah, the implications, there is so little understanding of what this really meant, this innovative, creative concept meant.

Well, eight years later, everybody's agreed that the concept is great. It has been accepted that's the way to go. And that accepted the task of what we should do. The question now is whether or not the concept is a part of law. The question now is whether or not we should question if this is the right approach.

So, by group of decision-makers taking a four-looking approach, we bypassed so many problems and now we are not arguing whether not the ecosystem approach is viable or is legitimate. Rather we are asking how can we better improve? And that is more or less what we are asking the Commission.

Judge Singh

I think the appreciation which the Canadian, Mr. Mouldon has put forward is a very valid one and I think the Commission will examine it very carefully.

Madam President of the Commission is fully alive and aware of the problems which would help to dissolve the difficulties of the world as far as the environmental disputes are concerned.

What a convention redrafted by the Commission would do are (a) to focus attention which have been pointed out; (b) it will

become the pivotal point 'round which the opinions/theories of the States will develop.

We must have some place on which you can stand, which you can catch word of and even if it is a straw it helps you to build up more straw and to float.

Therefore, the effort of the Commission in producing a convention would be well received provided there is good public opinion. And I am very happy to see that the Canadian public opinion will support that effect and I hope there will be more national states building up public opinion to support the effort of the Commission to evolve a legal regime of environment. Thank you very much.

Mrs Brundtland

As you can understand by Judge Singh's reply, he really feels, as the others in the Commission, you know, very motivated by the statements made by you just now.. And if Judge Singh had not made this comments, I would have done it myself because it was not only Judge Singh's smiling listening to you but I think we all were inspired by it and it will inspire our work in that area.

I think I would like to go on to Fergus Watt, of the World's Association of World Federalist: Working on Common Ground.

Fergus Watt

Thank you, it's indeed a privilege to address this Commission on behalf of the World Association of World Federalists. Just by way of quick introduction to many of the guests here, our organization is dedicated to establishing institutions of law in the world. We believe the rule of law should replace the rule of military force in international affairs.

The Commission in its Mandate For a Change states that "it wishes to build on experience todate with multilateral discussions, negotiations, international law and institutions, and to examine new forms of international cooperation. We would like to commend the Commission for its effort in this area.

Rather than focus on particular issues of environment and development, we will speak about the need for appropriate institutional responses. In doing so, I would like to divide my presentation in three broad stages. First, I will speak of contextual framework for assessing environment and development issues and then I'll speak of some guiding principles, some abstract principles which can help shape the institutional response. And then finally some specific strategies for enhancing international cooperation.

First, there are some failures of the present approaches, many of them are obvious but I just like to put them on the record anyway. Often, the drafting of international agreements are, and the agreements we find, are the result of competing national interests and therefore reflect the lowest common denominator of agreement. This is true not only in the drafting of the agreements but in their decision-making bodies and regulatory agencies.

Often, the focus of international agreement is too narrow, unspecific. It de-focuses on specific environmental development issues. We believe that the phase of change in the international arena around these issues require the more integrated approach and a broader issue linkage.

And finally, many of the international agencies and bodies set up by international agreements lack power to create and implement policy. This in part reflects a lack of a grassroots mandate. As I said earlier, these agreements are made by nations for nations.

Having stated some of the failures of the present approaches, let me speak now about our response, what are we to do. It is axiomatic that where individuals or group of individuals share territory in resources, they need to define common norms of behaviour. This is true whether we are speaking of a family, small town, a province or a country or the world community.

However, the definition of common norms of behaviour is not in itself sufficient for the creation of a body of rules and regulations. In order for those to operate effectively, certain basic conditions must be fulfilled and I would like to enumerate four of them.

One, the existence of a general will among members of the community to accept and adhere to regulations. Two, the existence of a political framework not only for defining and quantifying common behaviour or norms but also for adopting existing rules to change within the community. Three, a means of determining compliance with international rules and regulations and finally, the means for reinforcement.

Now, the last three of those requirements relate to a need for a political will and are really just institutional responses. The first one, the need for a general will is a more complex development but I would suggest, and many of the people in this room are familiar with the recent publication by David MacDonald's office, the African Emergency Aid Coordinator, in which some public opinion data, very dramatic public opinion data on Canadian attitudes towards foreign policy, priority is put forth. And the results indicate that Canadians view assisting the Third World and ending the arms race now as the dominant foreign policy priority for Canada.

This is a dramatic shift. A few years ago, the data would have suggested that pursuing a nation's economic interest, our self-interest in the international jungle would have been our priority. So, I think and I, ah, the recent Sports Aid, is a

recent example, one of the Commissioners mentioned this as an example, these trends are persistent throughout many nations of the world.

So, my point is that are general will, that is, a general popular will as distinct from a general will on the part of nations, is emerging. To attain a more optable management of the planet Earth, and this is the second of the two guiding principles on the international legal response and I'd like to enumerate them, to attain optable management of planet Earth, it is important to identify the optimal level at which decision should be made.

And I'd like to put forward two propositions. First, decisions should be taken at the lowest level possible. This criteria are based on the idea that the process is democratic and that presumably the information available is best at that level. Secondly, our parties are affected by decisions should be represented on the decision-making body.

Now these two principles define the concept of subsidiarity, and a moment's reflection should reveal that application of the principles of subsidiarity to environment and development issues really means that a greater degree of international co-operation is required, because so many of the problems are transnational in scope. But as well as developing transnational approach is, there is also a lot to be said for empowering local approaches as well. Both of these are part and parcel of the concept of subsidiarity.

Well, I'd like to speak on some specific strategies for international institutional change. One point was just eluded to only briefly in our paper is the proposal for a second assembly at the United Nations, a so-called People's Chamber. Such an assembly would not require a revision of the Charter Article 22 of the Charter of the United Nations which states that the General Assembly may create subsidiary organs as necessary.



This would be a means of bringing popular will, popular opinion on many of these issues to the international political arena. It would only be a consultative body but this body would be able to relate to the public, the press and participate in the political process. There are a number of different proposals as to how this second assembly would be constituted. I would recommend that this Commission give consideration to calling for, at the very least, a study by a group of experts on the question of a second chamber.

Another strategy that we would highly recommend for the Commissions's consideration is the creation of regional commissions around environment and development issues. Obviously, many of the environment and development problems we face are transnational. Therefore, regional political frameworks to deal with them are called for. Regional commissions could conduct environmental impact assessments. They can propose new regulations, they can monitor compliance with existing regulation, and ideally they would have the authority to enforce regulation and take remedial actions.

I understand the Commission is quite interested in the Canada-US International Joint Commission which is a example of this type of regional commissions. We believe regional commissions could be applicable to environment and development problems in many areas of the world.

In many cases, the political will for such a degree of co-operation as, for example, it will take to create regional commissions is lacking. Here, perhaps agreement in principle, at the very least, could be endorsed by the Commission. And here

I am really re-enforcing the point made by my earlier colleague. Agreements in principle, for example the Stockholm Declaration, are consensus-building, consciousness-raising, and find their way into the body of international law through jurist prudential opinions given.

Another point that perhaps could have been elaborated a little more in our paper is the Law of the Sea Treaty, the Law of the Sea Convention. I would hope that the Law of the Sea Convention speaks to both environmental and development issues in many ways, in the text of the Convention that this Commission would recommend ratification of the Law of the Sea Convention.

But there are other lessons that we can draw from the treaty-making process, the Law of the Sea Treaty making process. One of these and one of the reasons for the success of the Law of the Sea Convention, it's a landmark law-making exercise in human history. The first time representatives of all people on the planet came together to create a body of law.

One of the reasons it's succeeded so well is because there was a broad issue linkage. There was a sort of unstated assumption and understanding of the Law of the Sea Conference that it was to be a package deal, and so that nation could accept agreement on certain issues where they may have had certain difficulties in order to get certain principles and articles in the treaty that they were really concerned about. This kind of issue linkage will enhance international agreement, enhance the development of international law.

The second lesson that we can draw from the Law of the Sea process is that the consensus negotiating procedure is one that proved instrumental in the creation of the Law of the Sea Treaty. One of the reasons it succeeds so well is because it reflects power in a more fluid way, it negates the fiction of political equality that exist in many international fora, where one nation one vote or even weighted voting formats. The consensus negotiating and decision making procedure is fluid and more adequately reflects the different power interests that are at stake in any negotiating process.

I just conclude by, since one of the commissioners referred to linkages with security issues and he mentioned the UN

disarmament development conference, one way that World Federalists are applying the lessons from the Law of Sea Treaty is proposing a UN continuing conference on world security which would implement many of these lessons from the Law of the Sea, and allow nations to, ah, it would multilateralise security negotiations and it would allow developing nations to put forward their development concerns in a disarmament context.

With that I will conclude my remarks except to wish the Commission every success in the future. We believe your work is highly important and stand ready to assist in anyway possible in the future. Thank you.

Mrs Brundtland

Thank you very much. I think these 3 or 4 presentations this morning have been adding on one to the other in a very superior way. But I leave the floor open now for questions and comments both from the commissioners and from the floor. It was so good that nobody has anything to add. Is it Sahnoun?

M. Sahnoun

I really don't have anything to add, Madam Chairman. One regional organization has been referred to and that is the joint Canadian-US Commission. The experience of this Commission can be of invaluable importance as a contribution to our own work within our own Commission.

I wonder whether we could have in the course of this debate or to a later stage thorough analysis of the experience of this Commission. How it has worked so far the shortcomings; if there were any legal suits by the Commission or outside the Commission which have contributed to the work of this regional commission, who could have a thorough analysis of the experience of this body.

Because here we have really two countries which are in the unique situation where they share very, may be the longest border in the world between two countries, when one think of Alaska how it goes down all the way into British Colombia and the border goes all the way, practically the US almost surrounds Canada in the sense on the south and on the western side. There is a number of ecosystems there which are involved and which the two countries share. And therefore the experience of this regional commission for our own work, if we want to be practical, this is the way to be practical. Given the fruit of your experience. Tell us what happened as far as the working of this Commission is concerned.

Margarita de Botero

Thank you, Madam Chairman. I'd like to make some comments on the extraordinary presentation we heard this morning. And I'd like to pose questions also on the importance that it would be for you people to talk to the other people of the other parts of the world who think almost identically of what you think, the network building among the young people who are deferring from the old concept of what development should be.

And I'm mostly interested in touching this because I received this morning clipping from a newspaper "The Washington Post" that says "the revolution Latin American needs is cultural" and it says "after 25 years of work on Latin american development problems I am convinced that it is the way Latin American see the world, their values and attitudes, that is the principal obstacle to progress in Latin America".

And that disrespectful way of seeing our culture as a different way to seeing the world and as the right to see and feel different is not only made by a very important writer, or something called underdevelopment is a state of mind, but he was a former official of the US agency for International Development.

Now, I think that's why, particularly myself, welcome extraordinarily the focus on this paper this morning especially Ralph Thory and Marcia Valiente. Valiente in Spanish means valiant, It gives us a hope of persisting in the direction of creating a broadly endorsed and legitimate support for much greater equity at all in international economic order, an international humanistic thought. It has been insinuated very well, and I congratulate you for the development, that today rests upon terror of superpowers and superpowers syndrome of the powerful

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cont. of Botero's intervention

the world reproduces itself beautifully in nations and regions. This is the pest that somebody has to stop. And all these intellectual exercises we are doing have to point out and identify the real causes and their real enemies, and the psychology of fear that everybody has and he has to talk about the truth in this world today instead of lamenting the situation all the time.

The world's injustice or the economic wars or the arm race, social economic and environment problems have to be tackled in concrete political terms. The way to structure a proposal for society that is politically powerful enough to defend its rights from the grass roots.

And with this note, I didn't want to cover everything you said so beautifully but it is the model of development that it is trying to be imposed on us, that runs, that this model, that runs to the blood of the system, the dreams to bring the world together as a big consumer society and have left no little scars in our whole culture. You cannot destroy civilizations or posing them only because they are different or because you imagine they are intrusion in your sphere of influence or your sphere of marketing.

To begin with, it is more than unlikely, believe, me a change or a desired change in some of our countries, a rapid change in some of our countries pose also by people like you and which is

politically required can endanger the power or the security of the empires or threaten the strategic balance in today's world. But there must be a way without praising primitive societies as such, defending... or praising under development or poverty without being considered the prophets of doom, or not understanding the enormous efforts that man has made through science and technology in all these years.

That there must be a way in which a new complete different instant power structures must be put together with power and space for different choices and different development styles. A way which society can stop becoming only a spectator of State violence, of State and power terrorism, and a source of expanding production across, which you know very well and thank you for reminding us, has led to enormous wealth in some parts of the world and the destruction and exploitation of nature and men. Thank you.

#### Mansour Khalid

The picture which the speakers today tell us, what Mouldon and Valiente have depicted for us, is definitely the source of the picture of the better world we want to achieve. But there are certain difficulties or realities which we cannot just fly in their face. And I am sure, as what you know very well having been in this battle, for the establishment of an international authority with muscles.

You know the problems which the UN have been facing even with the interpretation of Article 27 on the Principle of Sovereign Equality. We are all committed to this principle but we are always faced by two outmoded concepts: one legal, one political. The legal one is on the question of sovereignty over territory and the political one is on security. The end-work looking manner of tackling the problem of national security. And around those two issues, all the problems with international organizations, national corporation,

multilateralism is facing. It is in this sense that the question raised by Commissioner Sahnoun is very relevant because reference was made to the Joint Commission. And of course, the Joint Commission is an example of a commission that existed in other parts of the world dealing with common waters, I mean there are examples in Europe like the Commission over the Danube, the Commission over the Rhine, there are perhaps later example that came in Asia, like the Mekong and the Indes. But in all those cases, you will see where there are problems involving security, co-operation becomes impossible and when it comes to this concept of security, in fact we belong to the age of Jeremy Bentham, you know, who used to say that equality and security conflict, equality must yield, justice must yield. So the world is backward in that sense but there is no reason why we should put our views across and fight for them. Thank you.

Speaker on the floor

Just to make one quick point, you mentioned quite appropriately the question of international security and international law. One development that is quite encouraging the principles of non-interference in domestic affairs in the UN charter which is square four up against individual nation's right to self-defense by which they justify their interference in internal affairs. One encouraging development is the activities of a number of international judicial scholars around the question of per se legality of nuclear weapon. There is a growing body of opinion that nuclear weapons are illegal.

In Canada, one of our pre-eminent international jurists will convince a conference this fall on the legality of nuclear weapon. I believe that this is something that Commissioner Singh is quite interested in. And I think the struggle to create and implement a regime of law around security issues is a gradual one and one which is inextricably linked to this consensus building process. And I am speaking of a popular



consensus as well as a legal consensus and I think that the consensus among nations will be, is obviously essential but that will be the last of the three. There is just so much inertia and momentum amongst the structure of nations, states in defense of status quo but they will have no choice but to follow.

Mrs Brundtland

Thank you. Janez. I hope we can be rather be brief now because the schedule is getting into trouble. Thank you.

Janez Stanounik

A very short one. The trouble of all these arms race problem is that everybody is sincerely convinced that he is piling up the arms for defense and all others are piling them up for aggression. And this is a universal conviction unless we lift ourselves or that we understand that violence as such is to be condemned. That terrorism as such is to be condemned without any question or purpose. There can be no purpose neither for violence nor for terrorism and I think this should be one of the principal considerations which our Commission should take into account. Thank you.

Patricia Gonzales

Thank you my name is Patricia Arceo Gonzales and I came from Argentina. I would like to make a comment here related to what has been said here and something that was commended yesterday. And it was that the Commission should put some pressure over the governments of developing countries to guide their development in a sustainable way. And I think that I would like to see the Commission putting some pressure over the governments of developed countries because we all know about

different debts and the economic dependency of developing countries (no recording) of health that would lead the developed countries to a real independency. Thank you.

Mrs Brundtland

Thank you very much. And now I give the floor to your previous Minister of Environment, Charles Caccia, member of Parliament for Dalenfort - Raising Environment on the Political Agenda.

Charles Caccia

Good morning and thank you. In thanking the Commissioners and the staff, the officials for coming to Canada, I would like to thank you Madam Prime Minister in a particular way for your leadership for having given even greatest status to the Commission by virtue of your recent elevation to office and for having continued with the Commission despite the double burden and the pressures at home. I'm sure that we all around the globe will benefit from your commitment and from your determination.

Now, in bringing calls to new castle, I will do it in a telegraphic way combining two papers into one and in saying roughly this. That in moving the environment up in the political agenda, we have to watch a number of things. Number one we have to continue to mobilize elements of pressures on the public and on politicians. We need, therefore a well informed and keen public media and opinion shapers; we need active and articulate non-government organizations; we need government departments of the environment actively engaged in public advocacy; we need adult education programs and school curriculae aimed at youth and grown-ups.

In moving the environment up on the political agenda, we have to remove obstacles such as the scourge of short term economic

thinking; such as the propensity towards curing instead of preventing; such as the short-term political planning that seems to be a major inherent characteristic of the political system; such as the propensity on the part of many to see the economy not as part of the environment.

And finally, the acceptance that it is alright for private enterprise to pass cost of environmental damage to the public sector. In moving the environment up on the political agenda also, we have to shape the main thrust of political thought so that the environment is seen as the envelope within which the economy function.

And I submit to you that this is a unifying concept that applies anywhere whichever the economic system, whichever the political system, whichever the stage of development. The environment is to be seen as the envelope of the economy. Well, in doing so we have to develop or to adopt a number of initiatives; we have to do our homework in economics and develop a better knowledge of the cost of inaction. We do know the cost of landing man on the moon; we do not know the cost of increased hospital admission because of air pollution.

We have to develop and adopt social shock absorbers to protect workers when they are affected by environmental measures and programs. Shock absorbers such as mobility, re-training and early retirement. We have to encourage and give greater momentum to modernization programs on the part of industry in co-operation with government and labour. We have to develop further thoughts in many jurisdiction to the adoption of charters of environmental rights. We have to ensure the adoption of industrial code of conduct by industry particularly by transnational industry. And as you know, Commissioners, since Stockholm there's only been a negative reaction by industry on this matter.

We have to explore the possibility of establishing environmental protection board that would be empowered to

collect premium based on performance by industry. And we have to find ways of adopting new government structures whereby the environment department becomes a central force in the overall policy-making process, not just another department often losing out in competition with other departments, this at the national and sub-national and local level.

At the international level, Madam Chairperson, I now will conclude with that, we have to talk about the successor to UNEP which we all know is just the program. And here, we should endeavour to develop something that has the strength at the centre, something that should have a strong rule at the centre in the Secretary General's office or the equivalent where it would initiate policy. It would play a strong advocacy role, it would promote advance long-term global thinking and research and operating with the network of regional global offices which would conduct the regional research; and when needed even offer mediation services on transboundary environmental issue and which would also keep the head office abreast and informed about environmental developments.

Madam chairperson, the office of the UN Secretary General or his equivalent or her equivalent would become a pivotal force around which the three elements of human survival hinged; namely peace, the environment and development. Thank you.

Janez Stanovnik

I can't resist this temptation. The statement was so provocative, so central to our concern that I just must response. I wonder when we come as a Commission to the point of formulating our recommendations what Minister Caccia has told us today is central in my view.

How to make in national government the person or the office which is the principal office responsible for guidance of the economy. How to make this ganglion, this nerve centre of the

government, completely not only environmental environment-conscious but environment active. You understand me? It is the question of, in planning economy, the planning boss must be environmentalist; the finance minister must be a convinced environmentalist, this in my view is central.

Now, when it comes to the UN, I would like to be a little bit indiscreet, I was serving altogether UN for seventeen years, best years of my life; and I feel and this is very important matter now as by the end of this year, there will be a new election of the new Secretary General and also Director General for economic co-operation. As Secretary General is to be elected this time from the African country, the Director General will come from the North. I think that it is essential that the Northern countries start thinking now who is going to be appointed in this most crucial post for international economic cooperation. If I follow what Minister Caccia has said, this must be a person who is not a deformed economist like me but must be an environmentalist. He will be able then to see the totality. Thank you.

Mr. Caccia

Mr. Stanovnik, if you are accepting nominations for the post of (Stanovnik answering). In that case, I have a second nomination to suggest if you want to consider it, we have former Prime Minister Pierre Edward Trudeau who will fit the description quite well.

Emil Salim

Will it be possible that environmental units or departments can also be created within the political parties like in Canada? In a democratic government, the leaders will respond to elections and elections will be promoted by the political

parties. To what extent can we build up environmental sections, units departments in the political parties, question number one.

Second is, do you feel that other informal leaders can play a dominant role, like the church leaders, community leaders or informal leaders that can stimulate public opinion and, certainly if it is possible, to have a kind of strategy in which you don't separate environment with development, it's the eco-development concept of our friends from the law. And in that context, the economic ministers ... that we try to introduce this eco-development concept.

And finally, in the experience of many developing countries, it's the head of state, head of government, the prime ministers, these are the strategic minister or leaders who can then gear the nations towards eco-development process. Do you feel that prime ministers in the provincial government in Canada, the Minister of Finance will save not only the focal, the target groups in which we should devote our attention in order that we have this eco-development in practice. Thank you.

Mr Caccia

There are four well-known questions and I don't know whether one can do justice to them in a minute or two, but I will try.

In answer to the first and the second questions, we do have in our political system evidently a sensitivity to public opinion and this will be eventually my main theme in answering all your four questions.

Therefore, in our Canadian experience and North American experience, and I suppose in many other global regions, public opinion shapes the view of politicians. There is no question about that. The question is how do you develop the pressures that generate the public opinion, the well-informed public,

then we will put the pressure on the politicians would then in turn will take certain steps. And there are innumerable answers where this has happen sometimes in the most unexpected ways.

But I don't think that our parties will establish within themselves an environmental section. We do have, however environmental critics in our Parliament that somehow moved the environmental agenda in a positional role to the minister on the government side. And the public and the NGOs and all the communities then try to push the issues from every possible angles. And a clever political party of course will realize that the public is pre-occupied for instance, about water, and it will begin to say things.

We have seen in Canada the last ten years phenomenal changes in the programs of political party. The environment has just began to emerged, is just beginning to see the light of day within the consciousness of different political movements for a number of reasons. Now certainly, community leaders, church leaders and so on, they are extremely powerful and very important.

But again I would go back to the element that I put to you earlier, namely that we need well-informed and keen media and opinion shapers, editorial writers, the reporters. The interest at the top of an editorial board of any national and local newspaper can do a lot in mobilizing public opinion and then as a consequence immobilizing political opinion. I don't think that they will have the leader of the party as a born environmentalist but you can turn him/her into one, if the pressures are there.

And then finally, target groups. The third question perhaps is the most difficult one, and that is environment versus development or as an alternative to development. I don't see that as one and in a way it was very clever to name the Commission that way. The way that it strikes me is the

development can only take place within a well-cared environment. There is no ... for heaven's sake and this conceptual difficulty that we have in a principle that seems to be elementary and so busy and yet we have such great difficulty in implementing it, is one that you are now charged with, in getting it across to the world, to global public opinion. That there is no antagonism, no polarization between the two. There can't be any damned development, unless you have taken care of the first, otherwise it is a short-lived glory.

Mrs Brundtland

Thank you very much Caccia. I now would like to call upon four people who are here to be certain that we have them all speak to us and then open the floor after the four have given their statement. First, Stanley Darling, Member of Parliament House of Commerce, Special Committee on Acid Rain.

Stanley Darling

Madam Prime Minister I'm certainly privileged for me to be present at this all important conference and I'm also delighted to follow immediately my colleague, the honourable Charles Caccia who serve as a member of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Acid Rain which was formed by the Parliament of Canada.

Well, the last was born I believe in June of last year, but I have the privilege of serving three distinct committees, two under the former government and this is an old party committee which has been investigating the problem of acid rain, how it would effect our country and of course we are tied in with our great neighbour to the south. And I'm delighted to see the distinguished Commissioners here but I must point out and emphasize that more than pleased to see Mr. Ruckhelhaus here, one of the great environmentalists in the US and the former



director of the Environmental Protection Agency there and a great friend of Canada. We could use more like him I can assure you.

The present committee have been studying what should be done. As has been pointed out, I don't think we have to sell the people of Canada. As my colleague Charles said, we've got to sell our governments.

When I first went to the US, Madam Prime Minister, as a member of the Committee some five or six years ago, the acid rain problem was the best kept secret in the US. Very few knew anything about it other than the few very high profile environmentalists. That has changed now but we still have a great job to do, we are both polluting the other country. We happen to be, and everyone has been said, is down wind with somebody else but we happen to be more down wind than our colleagues in the US.

In my particular area which is in Ontario, the prevailing winds drop 70% of all the acid rain and that comes from the US. So we are certainly hoping that something will be done on this. And I'm not sure whether the Commissioners are aware that the US has made great concessions. First and foremost, the President has admitted that there is a problem, finally with all due respect. And that is all important before that it was the birds and the bees and the lakes, mountains and so on when they were spilling forth after a volcano. So that is important. But we certainly both have a long way to go and Madam Prime Minister

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Cont. of Darling's statement

gave us staggering figure yesterday in your excellent remarks when you said we were spending close to a trillion dollars a year on the arms race or approaching that. And you know, if we only go back and sell our countries on the idea that that's an all important expenditure. But let us cut it by just ten percent and everybody sure have enough ammunition and arms to scare to hell out of their neighbours and no doubt about that. And that ten percent, if it was channeled to the environment, would be an staggering amount of a hundred billion dollars and that's too much if we cut it to five percent.

So, we have a great job to do. Our committee are working hard as we have been looking to various things, our forest having damaged, the health of our people, our magnificent monuments, our buildings and so on, statues. And of course, we in Canada I supposed have a common ... when we think of your great countries that are thousand years old and we're worrying about buildings that probably are less than a hundred years old.

Again, it is a privilege and a pleasure to be here Madam, Prime Minister, and I am wondering and possibly just a thought that some of your other governments might consider the idea of a special committee on the environment and may be geared in to acid rain. There is no doubt about that it is a world problem and we've got to do something about it and it's gonna cost us a lot to do it but it's going to cost us a great deal more not to do it.

Mrs Brundtland

Louie Bryer, President of the Native Council of Canada to take the floor.

Louie Bryer

Thank you very much Chairman, I have several pages here but I don't think I will take time to read it at this point and time. I think what should be taken into consideration is around the world wherever there's development indigenous people are always pushed out of the road for that development to take place, for nations and countries to build and for progress, as they call it. I can look and read it in my homecountry where I came from Northwest Ontario and you can tell from the environment what has taken place for those people there.

There has been a bill just passed in the House of Commons here, just last week in relation to those very people from the pollution that came out of the reed paper mills in Northwestern Ontario where the mercury poisoning just driving people out. There is no way for them to live now in terms of their way of life and that has to be taken into consideration.

And I think indigenous people around the world, all they are asking for is to be involved and to be consulted when there's development to take place. Because indigenous people around the world are gatekeepers, I guess you can call it, of the environment. And people of indigenous abstraction always look after the environment because they know that they have to live out the land and without the land they are not going to be able to survive. And so people like this Commission and others within the UN and other international agencies should consult with other aboriginal people, indigenous people around the world before they go ahead with development. That's all I can say thank you.

Mrs Brundtland

Can I call on Judge Maxwell Cohen, is he here? Please.

Judge Maxwell Cohen

Madam President thank you very much and I'm glad to be here. I was one time Canadian co-chairman of the US Canada International Joint Commission. And with Jim MacNeill as my godfather I was once Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Law of the Sea. I have a long of interest in this problem and I am particularly happy to see here my most recent colleague Judge Singh, the president of International Court of Justice which I have the honor to be an ad hoc member.

I am very impressed with the dimensions of your discussions, I have very few observations to make. One is that I think that one should see, this comes very directly from your able presentation Madam President yesterday, the convergence of so many fundamental issues of our time which makes, it seems to me, mankind in its institutions globally almost reached the age of unmanageability.

I think, for example, the mixture of nuclear issue, the extraordinary vulnerability of all states in economic terms, the environmental issue with ...the population/hunger issue and the areas of sub-nuclear violence in so many parts of the world today. One takes all those issues together plus the fundamental ravaging and savaging of the panel itself, one has to ask the question whether we haven't come to a critical point where the manageability of the issues per se is now closed in doubt and is a race against time to decentralize and simplify issues while there is still time to do so. Because the dimension of issue is both conceptually and administratively close to being out of hand.

My second observation is that one of the dilemmas we face is a nature of scientific dispute about environmental issues. We've had it in Canada and US over the acid rain issues as you probably know. That scientific dispute is very discouraging particularly when scientists are recruited, an aid of a national purpose and a national point of view.

I therefore take strong exception to the use of national scientific brains for the advocacy of a special interest nationally. What we need wherever neighbours are involved is never a national scientific point of view or investigation but of a national or multinational one. The experience of International Joint Commission has been - the joint fact-finding between the US and Canada had made all the difference in the world and was able to develop a consensus between states.

Common fact-finding is superior to national fact finding. And no matter how difficult the issue may be, there are serious difficulties I suppose, in determining the detailed sources of acid rain in particular case, it's remarkable how ready scientists from different communities are to come to a consensus when they are looking for the minimum line upon which they can agree as an alerting point for their respective communities. The great danger is that the recruitment of national scientists serves only a national purpose if it is not done nationally or multinationally.

My next point will be a brief comment on the legal framework of our time. It seems to me that we are not without very substantial recent legal assets. The World Federalists were speaking to that when I came in the room but I suspect that one should not underestimate the impact of everything from the Trails Mountain Case, which is a Canada-US case, down to Stockholm Law of the Sea of 1982 convention. Outer space arrangements are also very much environmentally minded.

There is enough law in the world today. It seems to me to start a campaign for normative, minimum adherence to those rules. And what we need really is a propagation and a publicizing of the rules so that the international community understands that the beginning of a solid legal framework exists. However, much it may be described by some law teachers as soft law or even soft, soft law or hard soft law, it doesn't really matter. What we're moving towards is hard, hard law that may belong where we are. But it's enough of the legal framework, Madam President, to make for a good deal of confidence that the world is not without a normative concept in which to determine a state behaviour and its limits in environmental matters.

Finally, I'd like to comment on the institutional arrangements required to make that norm of system effective. It seems to me that we have three options here that are very useful. One is of course the global institutional arrangements. Here, we need a kind of new earth space monitoring system. Mr. Macmillan yesterday referred to the need for monitoring. I think that it goes farther than simply an earth's monitoring system. It's a combined earth/space monitoring system, a new agency that would have the resources to be able to monitor report and recommend in a very systematic way on the earth's space interaction which is so fundamental to a total ecological view of the biosphere.

Secondly, we need to have a deeper understanding of what it means to have an effective region arrangement. The Canada-US experience has been a profound reinforcing one, the work of International Joint Commission. I was disappointed when the Minister yesterday, Mr. Macmillan used the word that the record of the IJC has been a mixed one. I must confess it's been mixed, but mixed mostly with good things, and the chair one must take in describing a succesful organization like the IJC is necessary now because of the ease with which this organization can be put under attack on grounds of cost. The cost factor now or the minimum compared to the cost factor will

delay another generation. And the delay here seems to me as fundamental to the political will which is not yet existing in sufficient dimension to achieve the result we have to have.

So, I conclude with my third suggestion on the institutional side. There is a need for harmonization of domestic laws where treaties are difficult. And even without a treaty basis you can get arrangements for the going together of countries in order to harmonize their legal systems. I wish the Commission every success in doing the final thing that I'd like to be doing myself. If you have a room for additional members, please let me know.

Mrs Brundtland

Thank you very much. I really hope, would have like, to invite you directly into the group. I want to call upon Joseph Crock clinical ecologist, are you here?

Joseph Crock

Madam, Prime Minister and ladies and gentlemen. I'm a medical doctor and I do practice the so-called Clinical Ecology. You may ask me later on what it is. And I do represent here the small organization in Canada which is called Human Ecology Foundation and also the Society for Clinical Ecology and Environmental Medicine, which I am the secretary of that organization. And my title of the presentation is "Survival through Ecologism".

A development has always held the potential for self destruction and unless we become aware of the functional harmony of life on this fragile planet, we may fulfill this potential. We discussed the effects of the environment on forest, agricultural land, plant and animal species but we ignore the very real threat to the existence of the human

species. A good health and the prevention of premature death and suffering are goals which all people value. The elements of the dual political system of the modern world are interrelated. If we harm our neighbour, we harm ourselves.

We hear everybody about the pollution of the entire world ecosystem, the spreading of many industrial and military toxins into the biosphere, the spread of pesticides and herbicides, about radioactive dust present thousand kilometres from the site of an explosion and the universally present acid rain. Many industrial wastes are biochemically active in the form of pre-radicals which eliminate from the natural environment and the food chain, very important minerals such as zinc, magnesium and others, I don't have time to talk about.

These elements are natural anti-oxidents providing protection against the generative and new plastic processes. The acid rain removes from soil magnesium which in chlorophyll is one vital mineral necessary to the process of photosynthesis. Without magnesium a plant cannot produce oxygen and without oxygen we cannot survive. The complementary worlds of plants and animals can only exist in the state of dynamic equilibrium which must be preserved.

Today's worst crisis is an ecological one which cannot be solved locally. It is known that in the situations of unethical actions and wrong doings, there are pathological processes and or external factors influencing the function of the brain. Many people would be unable to commit transgressions without the influence of alcohol and drugs. A similar effect can be brought about by heavy metal such as lead and various chemicals occurring in our food, polluted air, contaminated water, work place and homes.

Various pathological phenomena like poor human interrelationship, aggressiveness, crime without motivation, terrorism have their roots in malfunctioning brain overloaded with toxins. Neuro-behavioural toxicology proves that toxins



in the very small dose can damage the human brain and cause a variety of behavioural and emotional symptoms such as hallucinations, confusions, depression, loss of memory and decreased intellectual functioning. We know that human being is able to maintain his integrity, identity and sovereignty as long as his psychological processes are energetically supported by correct supply of nutrients. Intoxicated brain function become sub-clinically abnormal. When the battery of the calculator begins to weaken, the calculator can perform only simple functions and fails with complicated ones.

A polluted brain works by analogy in the same way. It can perform its basic function of maintaining breathing, circulation, instincts of hunger and sex but higher function such as love, friendship, sharing or social responsibility are distorted. So one can propose that moral philosophy and ethics are ecologically conditioned that man in destroying his environment, destroys himself. And his fading sense of guilt leads to farther destruction of his environment.

It would be easier for many of our political leaders, executives and scientist to believe in this threat if people were dying massively from environmental pollutants. Unfortunately, this poisoning does not appear in the acute form but manifest itself as a chronic disease of civilization which include cardiovascular, collagen disorders, neurological disturbances, schizophrenia, environmental hypersensitivity, cancers and totally malfunctioning immunological system in the form of AIDS.

What is the prime responsibility of scientists, physicians, educators indeed all people of this planet? It is not to become discouraged but to realize that our survival is only and exclusively possible through holistic ecologism and to alarm, to inform, to achieve and work together to educate society at every level to prevent the physical and mental infirmities which preclude solving our environmental and other problems. Thank you.

Speaker on the floor

Madam Prime Minister, I just would like to submit on your hands to the Commission two studies which have been on the issue of environmental sensitivities and environmental influence on the people.

One, is performed by the Toronto Board of Education concerning environmental pollution effecting our children and learning process at our schools, and the second is ecological sickness which many people are suffering and this assessment was done by the Ministry of Health of Ontario. I hope that those two books may help your Commission for the further and better understanding of the issue of the environmental problem.

Mrs Brundtland

Thank you very much. We have many men to carry them here. Before we break for coffee, I would like to call upon Mary Ann Jewer, Institute of Concern for Public Health.

Mary Ann Jewer

Thank you very much, Madam Prime Minister and Commissioners. I am here on behalf of Dr. Rossley Brittel who sent her apologies because she very much wanted to be here and because of her researches in Geneva at the moment. Our organization is

primarily concerned with public health problems related to military, industrial and technological pollution of the living space in the environment. And today, we would like to be very practical and focus only to agencies that do exist now. And that is the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

The developing nations rely heavily on information provided by these two agencies and recognizing very much the

recommendations that Professor Cowen has made about setting up an international law agency, I think too that we have to do an evaluation of what exists and what kind of information people are getting.

The International Atomic Energy Agency was founded in Vienna, Austria on the 29th of July 1957. Its main objectives were to seek, to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. And to ensure, as far as it is able, that assistance provided by yet or added request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way to further any military purpose. It is an intergovernmental organization with membership consisting of appointees and member states.

According to the IAEA, peaceful uses of nuclear energy includes nuclear power plants and even nuclear explosions for canal building, harbor deepening, creation of underground reservoirs and the unlocking of oil and gas reserves. It should be noted that for many years, these activities have been successfully blocked in the First World by environmentalists and health professionals.

Some experiences have been disastrous as, for example, the causing of an entire oil deposit to become radioactive and unusable. Nuclear power reactors sales have been nil in the US, in Europe for many years even prior to the Three Mile Island. The IAEA relies on the ICRP for its basic safety standards' and this is the other agency I'd like to deal with.

Over the years with its advocacy mandate, it has become a public relations organization for procedures of nuclear hardware. A case in point is a publication in 1981. Facts about low level radiation which has been distributed widely throughout the world to assure the public of the harmlessness of routine radioactive waste release from the nuclear industry.

It examines carefully, one would see a disclaimer on page 2 of the booklet to the effect that the green field in figure 1 represents the radiation level which is discussed in this leaflet. This level is about 2 ... It is never mentioned that the recommended maximum radiation dose per year to the general public is five hundred ... and to nuclear workers is 5,000.

The pamphlet contains misleading discussions of scientists who descent from their thesis that exposure to radiation is harmless. The public relations approaches are obvious to the fact that the scientists to whom it supposedly attacked are not given space to respond. Some of its information is seriously flawed. For example, it refers to the tri-state leukemia survey as a study of children under the ages of 15. Whereas, it was a 48 million person study of all leukemia of all ages.

Therefore, we recommend that the International Institute is recommending that the IAEA be no longer mandated to promote nuclear energy. It recommends the formation of an international advisory commission dealing with all energy forms. Such a commission could contain scientific experts speaking to both the benefit and hazards of the energy sources. No advocacy position should be assumed. Disputes should be mediated with due regard to scientific honesty and open dialogue not settled in a self serving bureaucratic manner.

The structure of such an organization must necessarily be not intergovernmental. Member states involve in the promotion of unsafe technologies in the Third World should not be able to screen acceptable scientists who will promote sales and place them in the agency board.

As for its watchdog role, we believe this should be strengthened, extended to military nuclear facilities and place directly under the UN Disarmament Agency. The board of IAEA should be freed of government ties and compel to take some oath of office as a truly intrnational public sector. The details of such an organization need to be fleshed out but the urgency demands immediate action.

On the ICRP, this organization was formed at the 6th international meeting of the International X-ray and Radium Protection Commission in London in 1950. It was a medical association which was reorganized to include the physicists who had worked hard on the atomic bombs during World War II. The organization was dominated by Britain and the US. Its 13 member commission set up in 1953 included three British members, 4 Americans, 2 Germans and 1 each from Canada, Denmark, Sweden and France.

It was to establish itself as a recommending body setting permissible levels of radiation exposure for workers and the general public given the economic and social benefits of the activity. Apparently, the medical radiologists who had nothing to do with the setting of the limits except the work of the physicists since they were assured that no limit would be recommended for medical uses of radiation. With exclusion of medical uses, the principal benefit for justifying radiation exposure was the production and the testing of nuclear bombs.

Since 1950, the ICR develop a self-appointed method of gaining new members. No outside body can appoint a scientist to ICRP, even the World Health Organization. Their publications are self-centered and then produced by Pergamon Press without the usual scientific pre-review. They also limit membership by expertise and eliminate those professions such as directors of public health or pediatricians, who must deal with their mistakes, estimates of cancer and birth defects.

No other than their predictions of health effects have ever been allowed and the ICRP never opposed any of the serious radiation problems which have occurred since its formation in 1950. For instance, they never took a stand against the aboveground nuclear weapon testing; they never called for ventilation in uranium mines; never objected to x-rays indiscriminately to pregnant women; and never put test to the excessive radiation exposures to part-time nuclear workers, even the deliberate exposures of young military personnel to nuclear ... failed to elicit a comment.

We are recommending that the ICRP should be deposed from its self-appointed position as an international recommending body for radiation exposure. Their structure past performance and advocacy role in assessing risk for benefits has discredited them. An organization needs to be formed which will deal with the health effects of the military, the industrial and technological proposals. This organization should be an open scientific society, non-political subject to fair review, unlimited to developing risk estimates. The risk benefit trade-offs are political economic not scientific questions.

The ICRP believes that these two structural proposals will go a long way toward relieving the oppressive situation in the developing world which has been inundated with the advocate scientists claiming respectability and carrying endorsement from the UN organizations. True independence and national integrity demand truth telling and free flow of relevant information. Current structures which promote secret science and dissemination of this information are intolerable if the the global community is to survive and thrive. Thank you very much.

Mrs Brundtland

I did announce the coffee break but there is one person that I have passed here and that's Joe Pacoleg. And if you can be relatively briefed then we can take with you this morning. Is that you, he's not here. In that case, we are taking coffee break.

MORNING COFFEE BREAK

Jeffrey Bruce

(tape unswitched)

environment and the widespread recognition. We are moving along  
past of economic growth without clearly understanding the cost  
we are imposing on our natural environment, on our resources and

END OF TAPE 17 - SIDE 2

TAPE 18 - SIDE 1

Morning

May 27, 1987

Cont. of Bruce's statement

....today's pressures on the planet's environment and resources are insignificant compared to what they are likely to be 20 years from now. Clearly lessons have to be drawn and now paths need to be explored if development is to succeed.

This is precisely what CIDA's submission attempts to do. It looks back to draw the lessons needed to make assistance more efficient in the present. It looks ahead to set up desirable policies and strategies. In the words used by the Commission, it shifts from an agenda dealing with environmental effects to one that focuses on causes and on prevention rather than on reactive cures.

CIDA's submission tries to assess the real causes behind the steady deterioration of the environment in Third World countries. It reviews some of the lessons learned by both donor and recipient countries. It underlines the agency's attempts to address development and environmental issues and it suggests some alternatives and solutions.

CIDA is honoured to have been asked to participate in the search for new approaches, perspectives and policies for dealing with these national and international challenges. We were anxious to take part because we share with the Commission the firm belief that lasting development rests on a sound, natural, healthy environment. Experience has taught us that

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the development process is likely to be inefficient and the benefits short-lived in the absence of a true concern for the environment.

In Third World countries, land misuse, deforestation, desertification and water scarcity are all closely tied to poverty and population pressures. Poverty is self-sustaining, a self-generating process that compels people to live in a way which destroy valuable soils, water resources and forests. Much of the environmental degradation is the result of the desperate search of the poor and the landless for such basic needs as fuel, food and water. Small farmers are held responsible for environmental destruction as if they had a choice of resources to depend on for their livelihood, when they really don't. In the context of basic survival, today's needs tend to overshadow consideration for the environmental future. It is poverty that is responsible for the destruction of natural resources, not the poor.

Poverty and environmental degradation are often compounded by rapid population growth which translate into increased human needs and intensified pressures on already scarce resources. The problem is not simply one of numbers, it is far more complex. It involves land sustainability, relationships between people and the environment, the degradation of natural resources and under-development. A major consequence of rapid population growth is the inevitable increase in the numbers of poor, living at or below minimum subsistence levels. Population growth is both a cause and an effect of poverty. Both tend to create groups of environmental refugees.

The basic question today, is not whether to choose between environment and development, rather than it is how to select patterns of economic development which are environmentally sound. International co-operation is essential in devising a global economic system that responds to the needs of Third World countries, as well as of the industrialized countries. Not only must we find more effective tools to treat the

symptoms of environmental mismanagement, we must also address its root causes: poverty and population growth, crippling debt, unfair terms of trade, fixed aid budgets and under-development.

CIDA is currently re-evaluating its programmes in the light of our greater understanding of environmental concerns. In reviewing its performance, the agency found that certain universal lessons seem to emerge from bilateral and multilateral donor activities. Some of the key lessons learned include the recognition that in the past decade some projects have not succeeded because they were not environmentally sound, and therefore not sustainable.

This failures often resulted from lack of understanding about the complex links between resources, population, environment and development. Others have achieved the objective set for them, but have not contributed significantly to genuine development. Donor and recipient countries alike can improve their development programmes by emphasizing environmental managements and rehabilitation by focussing on the needs of the people, particularly, the marginal groups and by widening the debate on environment and development, so as to achieve community understanding and support.

Since its creation, CIDA has devoted considerable attention to environment and resource management issues. Part of our submission describes the various ways in which the agency lends support to environmental development projects in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. It reviews some of CIDA's basic thrusts and it shows some of the achievements made in integrating environmental guidelines into the Canadian Development Assistance programme.

In spite of this progress, CIDA is fully aware that it will have to continue to improve its importance (?) for its performance. We must do so in the fullest co-operation with our Third World partners. We are working on their projects in

their countries, and they are putting up most of the money, the manpower and the womanpower. We firmly believe that development assistance should be made more sustainable, more attuned to the needs of the people and therefore of more value to all. In other words, to be meaningful, development assistance has to concentrate more on the impoverished and the malnourished so as to meet their basic needs in a healthier, natural environment.

The submission also addresses some of the main issues raised by the Commission. For instance, it examines the close links between environment on the one hand and population, food security, agriculture, energy, forestry and industry on the other, as well as the growing concern over the development of human settlements and their relation to the environment.

The final section looks at some of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. We now possess a good understanding of some of the factors that are shaping our future. Population growth and poverty emerge as dominant elements in developing countries influencing and cutting across all major sectors of activity. The 21st century will see a doubling of human population with greater pressures on natural resources. Half a billion people are already undernourished, millions more will be added each year. Without substantial changes in the management of our water, land, air and forest resources, it will be difficult to support the population projected for the next century. Other ecological disasters are not in the future, they are happening now.

The future, in large parts, depends on the way we deal with the seriousness of a global scale depletion of our resources. National and international actions are needed to ensure that appropriate technologies are made available in order to increase productivity and greater emphasis will have to be placed on improving the welfare of marginal groups, particular women and the landless. We have the tool, the knowledge and the skills to build a more secure and more sustainable world.

What is needed is greater political will, increased international co-operation and greater community involvement.

Environmental progress requires the support of an informed and alert public in developed and developing countries. We must think and act more as citizens of one world. We live on a planet with finite resources and a planet irrevocably interdependent. We share a common heritage as well as a common future. We have a responsibility to manage the world's resources for the benefit of future as well as the present generations. It is our hope that the Commission will arrive at conclusions and recommendations for environmentally sound economic and social development in the decades ahead. Developed and developing countries desperately need your guidance. It will then be a matter of mobilizing the political will, nationally and internationally, to act together. I thank you, Sir.

Dr Khalid

Thank you very much for your speech. In fact, this presentation sounds like a leaf out of the "would be recommendations" of the Commission and it is very heartening to see that a great donor nation of eight partners is coming to grips with the root cause of the problem. As part of our philosophy, we are talking about under-development, that poverty is the greatest pollutant. Thank you again.

I now call on the second speaker.

Theodora Carol Foster

Mr Chairman, Madam Prime Minister, Honourable Commissioners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege for me to be here today to address one

particular factor of development and environment which, I feel, has been perhaps ignored or neglected and that is the role and integration of women into both the development equation and into the environmental equation. The two are very much interrelated.

It's only been recently, in the last 20 or 30 years, of modern development that development planners and policy makers have really come to appreciate women's role in the economy and in the development of agriculture, fisheries, certain types of energy and small scale business. It is less well recognized about their environment impact.

And, unfortunately, I think to a large extent, many of the programmes that are supposedly directed at all human beings still tend to treat women on the periphery and they tend to be treated on an ad hoc, piecemeal basis. So long as this occurs you will not achieve sustainable development, because you are only dealing with 50 per cent of the population.

Before I go into some aspects of my paper, I like to draw a few parallels between women and development and environmental issues. Both are poor sisters of development. Few resources typically are directed at them in terms of dollars or person years (?), often there is inadequate research on the linkages. Mention was made about economic cost-benefit analyses that do not adequately address the economic issues surrounding environment and also surrounding the integration of women.

Both tend to be afflicted with myths. Very often they raise high emotions and there is often ignorance and apathy concerning both. Both are the soft edges of development, they are difficult to measure in dollars or to quantify with hard data. Both require holistic cohesive approaches, not the ad hoc piece meal treatment. Each needs to be fully integrated with the others and seek other new alliances for reinforcement and support. More is known about women in development and about environment than every before, and more has been done

since the beginning of the international women's decade, since the Stockholm Conference. But the gap between men's and women's incomes is still largely 30, 40 per cent. We have 800 million women illiterates in the world and that is increasing.

You know the environmental data and women tend to represent only 5 per cent of the senior management in the United Nations. But, fortunately, in the Norwegian cabinet they now represent 41 per cent. Women in environment also suffer from the lack of real political, economic and development commitment by most politicians, many development planners and even some NGO's. Nowadays, one sees in various pieces of documentation the requisite word "woman" or "women's programmes". Sometime, you even see a paragraph, but the real integration doesn't always occur in the field, or even at the policy planning levels.

Now, I like to refer to six particular sectors that I have raised in my paper. One is women and food production and agriculture: UN data shows that women produce 50 per cent, at least, of the world's food and that in Africa and Asia in many parts it is 60 to 80 per cent. Even in Canada, where we tend to think that the farmers are all male, at least 25 per cent of the farmers are women. 15 to 25 per cent of households are female headed due to many instances of the shift of men off the land. And women, and especially the female headed households, represent the poorest of the poor. Women's agricultural activities, obviously, have potential positive or negative implications for the environment, especially in the Third World countries, but no less than here. But, whilst women's agricultural needs are beginning to be dealt with to a greater extent, certainly the environmental needs and information that they require, is not. Women are not privy to information or help about how their activities under traditional methods might help benefit the environment or even have a diletory impact on the environment.

For instance, most women are involved in subsistence farming in the Third World countries. Cash cropping is known to displace the subsistence agriculture and push it onto more distant, less fertile lands. That has severe implications for the women, because they are the ones that often do the subsistence farming, and they are the ones that are pushed onto ever depleting, declining soils.

Agricultural policies often promote large inputs of herbicides, pesticides, large scale technologies, rarely are the technologies, and I am not advocating necessarily large scale for men or women, but even the smaller scale ones typically are not directed to the women. The large scale technologies when they are directed to the men again result in dileatory effects on the women. Herbicides, for instance HCH, is ingested through the soles of feet of the women working in the fields. It becomes part of the mother's milk and then that is taken in by the children. So you have severe health hazards arising out of it.

The more time that women have to spend in the fields further and further away from home results in a decreased nutrition and more disease. There is another aspect too of agrarian reform. Typically, in the past in many countries, women have had traditional control over their lands. But with the decline in women's relative control over traditional lands, you will find that women are having less and less interest in preserving the land that they traditionally looked after.

Another aspect, 30 per cent at least of all food growing per year in the Third World countries is lost to insects, rot and vermin, and our response has often been to throw pesticides and fungicides at them. Why not build on women's traditional knowledge of food processing storage to reduce those food losses and avoid environmentally damaging pesticides.

Improving the role of women in agriculture and rural development is more than equity. It is basic to meeting the

food needs of millions. Without women's full integration into agriculture and the linkage of women to agriculture and to the environment into a workable matrix, food production will not reach its full potential.

Second issues, women and energy: In 1981, the implementation of the Nairobi New and Renewable Resources Plan of Action stated: "The energy transition must include consideration as social dimensions, including the role of women as agents and beneficiaries of development in view of their special burdens as users and producers of energy, especially in rural areas." In Third World countries and in industrialized countries, women have been affected by dwindling resources, fluctuating energy prices and health hazards. But very few women, with perhaps one major exception in Canada at the present time, influence policy or remedies to energy problems.

Most people here now know about household fuel shortages, fuel declines, improved cook stoves, but how many really know about the daily pressures on women to find fuel, how many know about the need of these women to have to use crop residues and dung as fuel rather than as fertilizers which leads to depletion of the soil, and the need for them to resort, if they can afford it, to costly fertilizer substitutes. The many health hazards, likewise, related to the fuelwood situation and the need to resort to other types of fuel.

But what about the failure to include women, in most instances, in improved stove planning, building and marketing. There are various reports around that state that the reason that cook stoves that had been improved do not work, because simply that women have not been involved. And it is a simple fact that since they use them mostly, they should be involved in the design, construction and marketing of them.

Even the oil price fluctuations have hit women. They have been socially and economically destabilizing; in some countries as male labour follows the flow. Construction of large



hydro-electric dams, is another thing, eviction of families, resettlements, elimination of marginal farmers. Very often the marginal farmers are the women. Again, they are the hardest hit with nowhere to go, no compensation.

Women and forestry, that is related to the energy issues. We have a lot about social and community forestry. But I still see a real neglect of the genuine integration of women into the design planning, implementation and monitoring of these projects, even though women in many countries, are very heavily involved in the maintenance and looking after the seedlings and the weeding. It is crucial to get them in and not just to put the necessary word "women" into the social forestry.

There is little training directed at women, by and large, in any of these areas.

Fourth area, women and sanitation: adequate unpolluted water supply is one of our most critical problems. Clean, safe water, obviously, is basic to survival, yet again, though we may have programmes for pumps and wells and so forth, why are the women not involved in helping to determine the location of wells. Why are they not involved in the maintenance of the wells. Why are they not involved more in the training. We are still treating it very peripherally.

Fifth, Women, Population Growth and Health: I am delighted that the Commission has actually has grabbed the bull by the horns in talking about population and its linkage, because I had noticed over the last five, six years, particularly, a number of organizations, be they bilateral, multilateral or NGO's wanting to avoid the issues of population growth. But you can't ignore it, and I think here in the Commission, it has been brought out, and I think people are more aware of the need to link it in.

Another aspect, Canada: The Canadian Federal Government and the Provincial Governments have no cohesive rational population policies in place, do not recognize the need for long range planning and have cut funding in family planning clinics. We haven't set a very good example in this area.

Not unsurprisingly, women have something to do with the population and it has been really interesting that in the few population projects that I have worked on the women's programmes had been about 5 per cent of the total project. And women had just been dealt with as a kind of add-on. Somehow, I think, they are rather central to the population issue.

Finally, there is often the myth that women do not want population planning, family planning - they want very large families. This is true in some countries, not in all. But the women that I have talked to, through women, with other women, and out of the presence of men have indicated that women want much more planning facilities than has been indicated, and that also has environmental implications.

Finally, women and appropriate technology: suffice it to say that, traditionally, technology has discriminated against Third World women in the setting of the natural environment and in the work and home environment. Likewise, in Canada and I won't go into that. What are we to do? I would like to hope that the Commission which has such a mandate that, in effect, is coming to the table with clean hands, with a clean slate will not negate or ignore the women's role in development and in environment. I have been very struck by the empathy and the sympathy of the Commissioners, their willingness to listen to people on a personal basis and on a collective basis, and I don't always find this amongst our own politicians, I don't always find this amongst the international civil servants. And it gives a very warm feeling to observe this in you.

Finally, I think we must take opportunity to integrate women fully. Women do exist who have the qualifications, whether it

is in the Third World or in Canada, women's organizations exist to help you rally around and lobby for environment. Rural women have a stake and they have lots of knowledge in this area. We have to tap it. We need more research and data on women's linkage to environment and the economic effects, we need more inclusion of other groups, we must stop talking to ourselves, we have got to pull in consulting firms, corporations, industries and so forth. And not just talk to the converted. We need more funding for training of voluntary organizations to build up their capability because if we are going to have, for instance, 2000 NGO projects, we make sure they have the capacity to handle them.

The decisions are hard, I know that there are high expectations for the Commission. I just like to say something that my daughter said to me. She said: Mother where are the leaders today? Because she was crying about the various environmental news stories that were coming over the press and in the newspapers, and she said: why aren't the leaders doing something? I think that you are the leaders and you can have a great impact and if you can use any of us, I hope that you will. Thank you.

Dr Khalid

Thank Mrs Foster for a well researched presentation, not only on the situation of women, but also on the role of women in development and in the protection of the environment. The themes are certainly very high on the agenda of the Commission. As you know, this Commission is headed by a very distinguished lady, and we have two women in our Commission, one, Margarita de Botero, is here. She is really in the forefront of the fight for development and the environment, normally in her native country but also in the whole of Latin America and the Third World.

The other member is Mrs Agnelli from Italy. Unfortunately, she is not with us at this meeting, but she too is a leading person in her own country. She is the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. But our concern is not only the concern by the women Commissioners but every single one of us here is alive to the problem and alive to the role of women, and none of us share the vision of Sasha Getria (?) that women can be our superiors provided that they don't think that they are our equals. Thank you. I think now we go to the third presenter. Well, we have actually two presentations, but we start with Ivan Head, who would be followed by Lazard (?).

Ivan Head

Good morning, Mr Chairman, Commissioners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am the first fraction of the IDRC duet which begins at this moment and my brief presence in response to your invitation is intended to emphasize how highly IDRC regards the work of this very important Commission.

The centre is stimulated in that respect by a natural joinder of events. 16 years, to coincide with the creation by the Parliament of Canada of IDRC in a bit of a kind of development mechanism, the attention of Canadians was drawn increasingly, and often for the first time, to the importance of environmental issues. Not surprising to those who have followed his remarkable career, one person, Maurice Strong, played a central role in both activities. His was the major thrust for the novel IDRC, he was the moving force that contributed so much to the success of the Stockholm UN Conference on the Human Environment and of the creation of UNEP. This week, of course, Mr Strong is in New York, participating in the....

TAPE 18 - SIDE 2

Morning

May 17, 1986

cont. of Head's statement

Un Special Session on Africa in his role as Executive Co-ordinator of UN Emergency Operations. This morning, at this important meeting of the Commission which addresses the twin issues of environment and development to which Mr Strong has so long been dedicated, I wish to begin my remarks by paying tribute to him - a distinguished Canadian.

IDRC's first board of governors chose to focus the Centre's attention on the then often neglected semi arid tropics, with particular concern for the Sahelian zone of Africa. In that and in neighbouring regions, IDRC has been supporting agricultural, forestry and environmental related research projects for more than 15 years - research projects chosen by the scientist of those countries, undertaken by them, in their own institutions, in their own countries for the direct benefit of their own countrymen. In this way, the research results and the competence gained stays in the country and region.

The Centre's forestry research programme in Africa is one good example of many, of how the developing countries can be assisted to build and maintain indigenous research capacity at the national level to resolve problems of significant environmental, developmental and socio-economic importance. To emphasize the Centre's own emphasis on technical competence, Mr Chairman, Giles Lazard, a distinguished scientist will now explain what IDRC means by its references to social forestry and to describe the major forest research needs in Africa at this time.

Giles Lessard

Mr Chairman, the environmental degradation in Africa and the problems brought about by increasing desertification and the shortage of fuelwood has been the subject of several international conferences and they are very well known. There is a steady and increasing deterioration of the national environment in most areas of Africa. Since the planting of trees can go a long way to protect the environment, it is surprising that they are not springing up all over the place. Why is it so difficult to grow trees if they are so important?

At IDRC, we feel strongly that the active and voluntary participation of rural communities in tree planting is essential, and probably the only way that poor African countries can cope with the environmental problems created by the fuelwood shortage and the disappearance of trees from the landscape. The IDRC forestry programme, has from the start concentrated on social rather than on industrial forestry.

The key factors distinguishing social or community forestry from commercial forestry are the decision making process, the source of land and labour and the distribution of the outputs. The various components of social forestry are based on tree farming includes the planting of trees on farmers' fields of farm forestry, around villages that have village wood lots, in lines and strips, such as windbreaks and shelter belts, and in many other non commercial ways.

For producing firewood or fodder, trees don't have to grow straight and they don't have to be planted in square blocks. Reforestation is not social forestry if it is primarily a government activity without significant involvement of local communities. IDRC has supported more than 75 forestry projects in Africa in 18 different countries. We would like to share with you a few of the lessons that we have learned,

particularly, in one of the smallest projects we had in Nigeria, in the Zandère region in the southern part of the country, and also of other forestry projects.

The Nigerian project seems to be very simple. It was to assist villages to plant trees on available communal land in order to meet their needs for fuelwood and construction poles whilst improving the quality of the local environment. The objective of establishing 160 hectares of wood lots over a five year period was achieved and 59 villages participated in the project.

On the surface, the project appeared to be very successful and Government officials were very proud to see that these forest plantations had been established. But before supporting a second phase of the project, we sent a sociologist who could speak the local language in order to ask the villagers about their opinion.

It was found, among other things, that effective local participation in reforestation had been hindered by exclusive reliance on a community wood lot system, which was ill-suited in the local socio-political context to serve as a vehicle for reforestation efforts, powered and sustained by local people. Interviews with villagers revealed several constraints pertaining to land tenure, the ownership of the trees.

No, there are rigid forestry codes in Franco Africa, people cannot cut the trees even if they have planted them. There were constraints because the rainy season is short and it is conflicting with the food crop production and communication with peasants which was largely in one direction, and several villages had been put under pressure to participate in the project.

There are solutions to all these problems, but project designs require a sociological analysis of the area to obtain accurate information about the tenure of the lands, population density of growth, about livestock, the species that farmers would like

to plant, labour availability, about community processes and about farmers willing to participate.

One of our challenges in social forestry is to identify precisely who in the community would do the afforestation, how is it going to be done to achieve long-term results. It can be an existing unit of an organization, like the family also, or a special group created for that purpose, like a co-operative. Stable social organization are particularly important in the case of tree growing which requires continuous support over an extended period.

Selected tree planting technologies for species selection, nursery development, planting method and maintenance must be appropriate. This finding of the proper fit between the technical elements of afforestation and the attributes of the units of social organization around which an afforestation strategy can be built is at the core of the co-operation between forestry experts, sociologists and planners. Imaginative incentive systems can be developed with sociological knowledge of the local culture and value system.

There are several examples that that exists. Many countries have used school children to grow seedlings in the school yard. In the Nigeria project we have used the women to operate mini nurseries in the community. There is no need for large expensive regional nurseries. There are many other creative ways possible.

An important lesson learned is to involve the end-users, the farmers early in the life of the project by allowing for a combination of on-station and on-farm research. Another lesson becoming more apparent is the important role that NGO's can have in bridging the gap between the researchers and the beneficiaries. Among the recommendations: successful tree planting require adequate prior research which in turn requires a capacity to carry out this research. This is a long-term process that must start with training and continue with



institution-building and research and development activities, in that order. Throwing money at development projects without going through the pre-requisite is not a good investment.

The planning effort needed to meet the need of the people is enormous. It cannot be done by government departments with paid labour, this is far beyond the means of African countries. What is needed is increasing mobilization of the population which will grow tree crops in the same way as food crops. This will be achieved only if greater attention is given to the human aspect of afforestation which is the essence of social forestry.

There must be co-operation among government ministries and departments for unified action with farmers; co-operation with forestry experts, sociologists and planners is essential.

I would like to finish by saying that since social forestry is a relatively recent innovation, greater support should be given to small research projects involving people in the management of natural resources. For projects that cover large areas, such as watershed management, more sociological research is required on the collective adaption of innovations.

This has received much less attention from the sociologists than the adaption of innovation by individuals. The problems that affect the acceptance or rejection of planting schemes are essentially social-cultural, economic and locally political. ? down government programmes to plant trees, do not work. There must be a willingness to listen very carefully to what the villagers, men and women, have to say and to take their views into consideration in the design and the execution of the project. Thank you, Sir.

Dr Khalid

Thank you very much, Mr Lessard, and I think now we go to the last presenter in this session, Michael Sweatman.

Michael Sweatman

Mr Chairman, Members of the Commission, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to be here today to speak to the Commission and you on the subject of the World Conservation Bank. I am a banker, and I am a life-long naturalist and conservationist. My proposal for a World Conservation Bank deals not with the nuts and bolts of such an institution, but rather why such an institution is necessary and why the existing international institutions, be they bilateral or multilateral or whatever, will never be effective guardians of the earth's natural resource base. I have ten minutes, and I'll make ten points:

1. Mandate of the Commission

A proposal for the World Conservation Bank is made today in the context of the Commission's mandate to examine critical issues of environment and development, strengthen international co-operation on environment and development, and to assess and propose new forms of co-operation, raise the level of understanding and commitment to action on the part of individuals, voluntary organizations, businesses and banks, institutes, governments and agencies. As the Chairman put it in her address yesterday, to quote "a fresh look at the critical issues of environment and development and to work out some concrete recommendations for action".

## 2. Change

Particular, the World Conservation Bank addresses the Commission's Mandate for Change. In response to the Commission's conviction for the need for significant changes in current approaches, perspectives, attitudes, critical policies, co-operation between governments, businesses, science and people, certain forms of international co-operation, levels of understanding and commitment by people, organizations and governments, in recognition that things cannot go on the way they are and change must be quick and meaningful.

## 3. Vehicles of Change

Change cannot be effected without the creation of appropriate vehicles. If I go back to the 1940's, the time of the then international monetary crisis, it took the Breton Woods Conference and thereafter the creation of the World Bank and the IMF, then seen as macro solutions to then a macro problem. Today we have environmental crisis of global proportions, and although we have international environmental organizations of repute, such as IUCN and UNEP, somehow the job is not getting done.

The multilateral and bilateral agencies, with the possible exception of USAID, have a pretty dismal record environmentally. What is wrong? Again I quote: "some of our present difficulties probably arise from the feeling that many of our institutions were designed to deal with an earlier generation of issues. Today's issues require comprehensive approaches. But they are impeded by institutional independence, fragmentation and narrow mandates." Precisely.... Can these institutions change their ways and inflict less damage to the natural resource bases through the projects they finance?

Certainly they can and will improve and they may finance fewer undesirable projects. But in spite of recent commitments to an

increased environmental awareness the saga continues, and the second and third Botswana development projects are but one current example. In my experience, you cannot teach an old dog new tricks, or environmentally a leopard does not change his spots. We need at least one new international institution. This is not a basic problem and I refer to the "we and they" gap.

#### 4. Public and private sectors

The private sector, full of energy and talented people, who surely must play a bigger role in the solution. The public sector possessing huge resources but ever wary of the private sector. This gap is probably more acute in the US where relationship between the two sectors has become quite confrontational. Our own Minister of the Environment yesterday summed it up by saying, and I quote "it is of paramount importance that a better balance be struck between the responsibilities of the public and private sectors". This issue, I believe, is one of the most vital importance in terms of making progress on the environment front.

#### 5. World Conservation Bank: A concrete proposal

In recognition of whatever happens we need more money, both new money and rechanneling of existing money, the shareholders of the World Conservation Bank represent partnership of both public and private sectors in an effort to bridge the "we and they" gap. They will consist of governments, agencies, bilaterals, multilaterals, private banks, multinationals, foundations, NGO's, citizens and so on. Everybody will be there. Clearly the public sector would provide most of the funds, the private sector would be compensated to some extent by more votes. There would be a close liaison at all times between the private and public sector organizations dealing with the environment.

The World Conservation Bank would derive funding from a variety of sources, including share holders, the world monetary markets, private banks. It would involve the softlands (?) if it had a deficit it would be topped up by the shareholders annually, it would be viable institution. In a sense it could be pictured as the World Bank standing on its head, i.e. environment first.

A simple diagram which sees an inverted triangle of the World Conservation Strategy and the World Conservation Bank, the two together equal sustainable development. It would fund anything within the definition fences of the World Conservation Strategy. Staffed by extremely highly professional people with environmental awareness and it would be looking at things like environmental rates of return for environmental projects.

#### 6. Billions not Millions

Nothing would be a greater waste of time, certainly mine, than to form a World Conservation Bank with a few million dollars. Let us put the issues into some perspective. Up to 100 billion dollars US is received by developing nations from donor countries every year. How much of this 100 billion dollars is spent directly on environment is hard to guess, but if the World Bank is an example, not very much.

In the 1985 Annual Report of the World Bank, I quote "Direct involvement in environmental concerns is typically minor in relation to amounts invested in large scale development projects". In 1984 the Bank invested about 800 million it what may be considered as being environmental projects (mainly water, supply, sanitation and reforestation). Yet a recent report from the publication "The Petroleum Economist" informs us that if the price of oil stays at \$15 per barrel for one year, industrial countries likely would save 100 million dollars US in one year. So the money is there, somewhere.

World Conservation Bank would have initial paid up capital of 1 billion dollars, raising another 4 or 5 billion dollars on the world money markets. If you look at this in relation to the arms race and the cost of the arms race, clearly there has to be a fit somewhere, the trick is how to harness it.

#### 7. World Conservation Strategy

The World Conservation Bank would work within the framework of the World Conservation Strategy. It would underpin the World Conservation Strategy and individual national conservation strategies that flow from the WCS. At the World Conservation Strategy Conference in Ottawa in a few days time, I will underscore that there is a pressing need to turn strategic initiatives and plans in developing nations into an array of practical plans of action. This task will require institutional initiatives, amongst them the World Conservation Bank.

#### 8. World Conservation Service

It is proposed that in addition to a new international money organization, there is need for a parallel people organization. Not a World Conservation Corps, as has been previously proposed, but a service of professional people, some of whose qualifications would cover the Conservation Forum. I believe "corps" suggests "youth", and where I have absolutely no problem with your per se, I believe that developing nations are tired of well meaning visitors from overseas coming to show them how things should be done.

I think what we need is a developing service of extremely professional people who would provide expert advice and assistance and education to countries in need, and in turn would act as a conduit (this is World Conservation Service) for education and multinational organizations to receive people from the developing world for further education and so on in environmental affairs. A pilot programme is currently underway

with two universities in the States. Perhaps, to take an advanced example, Timawik (?) could serve as a world model, although there are clearly some lessons to be learned there from. World Conservation Service would be funded in part by the World Conservation Bank.

#### 9. Third World Debt

As a banker, clearly, I must cover the point of Third World debt. To discuss the world wide conservation issues without inclusion at some point of the international debt implications can be likened to playing a game of hockey without a puck. The result would be equally predictable or unpredictable. For some countries the debt issue is the single most important economic issue today.

And as we were reminded in the Chairman's address yesterday, the Commission is a body based on the growing awareness of the mutual interdependence of the environment and the economy. As a banker, I am bound to inform you that international banks will be serviced and in some instances repaid or refinanced. At worst, some will be managed-down over a period of time. As a conservationist, I am alarmed at the devastating effects on the environments of some countries caused by the servicing of international debt obligations.

World Conservation Bank would look for ways to use the international debt obligations of particular countries as a lever. One example for instance, is to provide a vehicle of exchange of environmental assets on the one hand for international debt obligations on the other. A rather complex problem, but one that I think has some merit. This would work through the World Conservation Bank and involve the co-operation of some of the international banks and, of course, the countries involved. A second example, particularly in the low income countries, is to arrange for the loan interest repayment to remain in local currencies, and to be reinvested into programmes in those countries.

## 10. Political Will

My final point rests on political will and returns us full circle to the Commission. Without the political will and the determination to effect change nothing much will happen. What is needed is a bold new initiative, a call for action for both sectors now. The role of US government is critical, but Canada can make a significant contribution. The World Commission is a good start, and we are fortunate in having such an eminent chairman and panel of members to represent the cause. Good luck with your deliberations and thank you.

### Dr Khalid

Mr Sweatman, thank you very much for your innovative ideas. It is really refreshing to see a banker looking at the problems of environment in the way that we look at them. You have talked about the gap between "them and us". In fact, just before I recognize the other speakers, just give me an idea...

Almost a month ago a conference was held in Rome for the protection of tropical forests, and that conference was held under the aegis of FAO, World Bank, UNDP and the WRI, and they came out with a plan for the protection of tropical forests, what they called the Tropical Forest Action Plan, and the problem, of course like with all plans, is that it needs a minimum of 8 billion dollars to be able to implement this plan.

But the idea, and maybe that will give you some food for thought, is ...which has been followed by some people, and in fact acted upon by Japan, is using the windfall made by industrial countries from the drop in the price of oil, which is estimated at 60 - 100 billion US dollars. Japan decided that what is doing make a profit in that, part of it, I think, is going to go to IDA, but perhaps IDA would not be the best institution, and, in fact, your idea parallel institutions might be the proper way of taking things. Anyway, that is my own personal view, and now I would call on Janez Stanovnik:



J. Stanovnik

Yes, Sir, I would first like to congratulate you on this well thought out paper. I would have a question because I think that this is a matter which may very well become one of the recommendations of our Commission, and I will therefore search for certain technicalities or possibilities of approach.

But before I come to that, I have something which I would like to clarify in your paper, namely on page 14. You are saying and I quote "the United States has to be admired for the huge subsidy that it has indirectly provided to the Third World through its growing trade deficit at great cost to many sectors of industry and agriculture in the United States." As I see from the rest of your paper, how well intentioned you are, I would like to clarify this issue of subsidy first on evidence of at least one country in question.

It just happens that this country is called Yugoslavia. This country has to pay this year 1986 for its debt obligations 4.7 billion dollars. Its total export receipts are planned to be in the ranges of \$10 billion, which means that 47 per cent of the total export receipts will go for repayment of debt. Now, of course, this is a terrific export effort which countries making on the way that we are at the present selling (please this is a little bit confidential).. We are at the present time selling 60 per cent of our export by the prices which are lower than the domestic producer prices. Now, this of course, is then translated into the huge domestic inflation.

Now, if anybody would enquire where from does come the phenomenon that today the world "South" is transferring net resources to the amount in between 30 to 40 billion dollars because of the debt repayment, because the total debt repayment in 1986 from South to North is 145 billion dollars, then, of course, one could well see what this does to international trade and how this so-called subsidy really goes around.

I know what probably has been misleading you, were the figures for 1984 where the import from the developing countries into the US was truly tremendous. (I think it was something in the range of 25 - 30 per cent increase in one year), but the figures which GATT has published for 1985 do not anymore show the same. Even if they would call trading for, let me say, dumping prices we would call this subsidy, it would probably not anymore true in 1985 and 86.

But the true reasons for my taking the floor is your truly ingenious proposal. This has emerged in the earlier discussions and it was called the Bank for the so called Non-self liquidating Projects, and I think that environmental projects are indirectly productive, but are not projects directly for a banking operation. We have had classical example of African.....

END OF TAPE 18 - SIDE 2

TAPE 19 - SIDE 1

Morning

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Cont. of Stanovnik's intervention

in domestic ...so that the countries would not need to earn foreign exchange and dump the creditor countries. But it would be accumulated in a domestic currency and would then be spent for environmental projects where I would be second to none to advocate that creditors and debtors together should decide how this money in a banking way should then be spent but in domestic currency. Because this is the way how to avoid this phenomenon which I have been quoting so that nobody will be blaming the other that he is exploited or that he is being subsidized.

Mr Sweatman

This is a very good question and it is really the core of the international debt problem - how can we affect, how can the system affect relief of some kind or other to nations faced with these colossal burdens. I think just one point I would like to make, that is that rates of interest are set by the market place, I think we have learned in the past that if you tamper with that you tamper with it at your peril.

The banks by and large are not making today very much in terms of interest rates spread on an international debt, because they are paying for those funds out of the money markets and on lending those funds on a continuing basis to international debtors, and their interest spreads, depending on the rates evolved, would be may be 100 basis points, 1 per cent or 2 per cent, or whatever, they are not 6 or 7 per cent.

If you were going to look at trying to narrow the gap of the real interest rates, we are now getting into macro economics, and that is not really my subject, and I think that would take a major debate in itself. There is an organization called the Institute for International Economics, which you may be aware of, and I think they are doing some excellent work on the subject and recently produced a booklet, I think, illustrating 24 different ways that you could try and ameliorate the international debt problem for debtor nations, and I recommend that work from that organization for further study.

The fact of the matter is that the banks don't really have the bottom line capacity. They don't have sufficiently fat profits, even that though sometimes that seems to be the perception. To take large dollops of loan write-downs or interest rate reductions, rather across the board, because we are talking about so much money, we are talking of nearly a trillion dollars of international debt. It is just too much for most banks to handle in terms of taking a stance.

Once you give interest rate reductions for one country without given rate reductions for them all. And, in fact, already the trend is towards interest rate reductions and I believe that Mexico and one or two other countries in Latin America have already negotiated substantial reduced rates of interest, which means the banks are making a fairly small return on those loans. And some of these loans are fairly long term.

So if we want to address this, and it is a major problem and I suggested in my paper that it is a major problem. I don't think we are going to resolve the environmental problem world wide without making more progress on the international debt. I think we have to make more progress in this area. And I think that it merits a major conference in itself to address this problem in a very professional way with the major pairs at that conference, i.e. the private banks, the governments, the multinationals and bilaterals and the developing nations themselves.

In fact, there has been talk about a super bank which would constitute those five memberships, which would try to act as an intermediary and try to soften the load on developing nations. But this is a very complex issue and one which, I believe, needs to be addressed and not side stepped. I think the banks, because the amounts of money are so large, the banks clearly are not comfortable without coming out in the open, coming out to the public and discussing these issues.

It is a problem, it is being managed, it is being managed well, it will be managed-down over a period time. The Canadian government has adopted a very responsible attitude towards this. The Canadian banks are providing and making provisions every year towards this basket of countries which is considered to be long-term in terms of repayment, if you like. And it is a very complex problem, but nonetheless one that needs to be addressed if we are to find a solution, hence the inclusion in my paper.

But the World Conservation Bank, I think, can use that problem as an opportunity, and I think if we can get individual countries, in exchange for some kind of relief on international debt obligations, make commitments in respect of environmental assets, I think I can give examples, but perhaps we would be invidious to quote individual examples, but I can think of clear examples of where countries could undertake to commit to preserve, conserve, manage or prove, manage their resource base in such a way that they would have derived substantial long-term economic benefits, although there may be in some instances short-term costs. I hope that answers your point, which is a very pertinent, a very important one.

Dr Khalid

I now call on Michael Dense.

Michael Dense

Mr Chairman, Commissioners it is my happy duty to represent the Royal Society of Canada here this morning as the senior body of scholars in Canada. One can say that the society has addressed itself to environmental issues from the beginning.

In its first volume of transactions it has articles concerned with forestry practices in Canada that is a 104 ago. We have submitted to your Commission a number of recent studies, a selection of 30 or more that we made in the last few years, which are particularly pertinent to environmental concerns. Now I'll just list a couple of them for the benefit of the audience to give you some ideas of the range of our interests and concerns here.

One has been on acid deposition in North America. These studies, of course, are largely in the Canadian or North American context, have been undertaken in part for the Department of Environment in Canada and, in some cases, have been in collaboration with the National Academy of Sciences of the United States and other bodies.

The second one has been on the Great Lakes Water Quality, the evolving instrument for ecosystem management, consideration of progress that has taken place in the Great Lakes of North America and what remains to be done there.

A third one was on nuclear winter and the associated effects, the Canadian perspective on that important global problem.

A fourth one, still in progress, is lead in the environment, in particular the Commission that is working on that is addressing the problems of lead in gasoline and the problems associated or the alternatives to lead in gasoline, and those reports have just come out and the commission will be reporting in full at the end of this year.

Let me mention just briefly another study which is in the proposal stage at this point in time. And this is the Canadian interest of possible contributions to a proposals that has been put to the International Council of Scientific Unions for a an international programme on global change in the biosphere and geosphere. We see this as a programme which we hope will be adopted in the next two years and go on perhaps for the next decade. There is considerable international interest in this, and there has been contact between those trying to develop a Canadian programme and colleagues in the United States, in Britain and in the USSR in recent months, and we will continue with these.

We have prepared a submission which, if approved as a Canadian submission next month, will go to the next congress of the International Council of Scientific Unions in September. Let me just mentioned perhaps one or two of the particular points that we are trying to make in this submission. We are again concentrating on Canada as a continental sized landmass, 7 per cent of the world's landmass and a large green environment around that.

From the point of view of both its context in the North and South American continental landmasses and as an arctic country and having its connections across the arctic circle. And we see that there are a number of special aspects to that that we feel that Canada can make its biggest contribution to a global concern.

The problems that I have just touched on of the arctic environment, which is dominant in Canada, this brings along the problems of the special ecosystems in Canada, the arctic systems, peatlands, boreal (?) forests and certain problems introduced by mankind's activities, like soil degradation and so on. We felt that Canada, as a relatively pristine environment 500 years ago was really an excellent place to examine the record of change over these 500 years since western man has invaded it and produced and impact.

We recognize it does not have some of the big problems of population growth, but nonetheless it is an excellent change with an excellent historical and geological record developing to assess the impact of resource utilization, energy utilization, industrialization of the country and the problems that are developing due to the fact that man is now the dominant agent for change in the environment.

Fourth, we would hope to make real contribution to the problems of developing methodology and data bases, not simply from the point of view of just assembling large amounts of data and doing things like co-ordinate satellite data with ground data, and so on. Although that is very important, we feel that this is an opportunity to develop the language by which data bases can communicate across the disciplines.

Again we are attempting to emphasize that this study will cross traditional boundaries in the geological and earth sciences, in the biological sciences, in the social sciences and the humanities, and the Canadian study would therefore be a major contribution to a world study and to improving the dialogue in all matters concerning environment and development. Thank you very much.

Dr Khalid

Thank you.

Dr Shaib

The ideal...for bringing up the problem of social ... in the African environment. The Commission is fully aware of this problem and we had a long discussion about it in Oslo last year.

The problem of desertification in Africa is a much bigger problem than acid rain or nuclear waste disposal and so on which are problems of affluence and the countries that are



creating this kind of problem have the means, the technology, the money and so on to solve these problems. But the problem of desertification, cutting down of the trees, especially in the Sahel, has led to a catastrophe which was brought very vividly to the homes of affluent people in the West, all over the world on your television screens.

The dying people, dying animals, dried up country side, desert. Now this is caused by poverty. Drought in itself is not something that cannot be controlled or dealt with. But when poverty makes it necessary for the people to cut down the trees for fuelwood, to cut down the trees to grow crops that are needed by the affluent countries for export and so on, this has led to desertification over more than a decade.

The drought started in about 1972, and in the Sahel of Africa, we had this drought for more than a decade now. And what has happened is that the cutting down of the trees without replacement has led to desertification which has made the drought led to famine. And therefore the emphasis given by IDRC to this problem is really very welcome indeed, and we know that today the world has been shocked into action since last year with the Band Aid and Live Aid and so on and now Sports Aid.

But most of you do not really understand what is happening, what is the reason for this? The reason is simple. Desertification, and I hope that this point of view which has been brought up here by the IDRC can really go down to the aid agencies of other countries as well. Not the Government agencies but also the non government ones. Because unless we can plant trees, unless we can involve the village people in the Sahel in the rehabilitation of the environment, then we have really very little hope. So I like to congratulate the Canadian IDRC team and I hope that the public will realize this and will help the government, your own government, our governments, our people to solve this problem. Thank you very much.

Dr Khalid

Thank you Shaib. Now we have only half an hour before we disperse for lunch, but we would like to try to make good use of this half hour, and I am sure there a few of you who would like to make some interventions on some of the important issues raised. But before I point out to the members of the audience, I want to give the floor to Jennifer Harker.

Jennifer Harker

Mr Chairman, I represent an engineering firm and as people who plan, design and build things we feel that we have developed a cost-effective, environmentally sound approach to environmental assessment and I would like to speak very briefly on this now.

We believe that there are two important features of environmental assessment. The first is the complete integration of environmental assessment in the design phase of project, and the second is the scoping of the environmental assessment to meet specific project needs. In the integration of environmental assessment and design, environmental considerations are instrumental in the formulation of engineering and planning alternatives, in the evaluation of alternatives and in the design construction and operation of the project.

For example: Route alternatives for roads are generated in such a way as to minimize disruption of agricultural operations by following existing lot lines or historic lot patterns. By scoping the environmental assessment we are able to focus on significant issues and identified concerns. Key issues are identified early in the project through discussion and consultation with government agencies and local inhabitants, and might include, for example, protection of water supply, prevention of soil loss and preservation of sensitive ecosystems.

Elements of this process are commonly used in Western world project planning, yet rarely has the whole spectrum of environmental effects been part of the planning in developing countries. Where environmental measures have been implemented, the benefits generated including the damage costs avoided have generally been greater than their cost. An analysis of costs and benefits to the sponsoring country and the host country supports our approach. We hope that the Commission will take our views into account in the preparation of your final report. Thank you.

Dr Khalid

Anybody who wants to make a remark?

Speaker on the floor

Mr Chairman, there has been a fair bit of discussion this morning of the need to build public awareness, public support and therefore political will for move on environmental management. I would like to address another driving force, and I think it is important. Certainly, in the context of development assistance, and it draws on a couple of papers of Theodora Foster and Jeffrey Bruce. The will at the bureaucratic level at the top of organizations and institutions, multilateral and bilateral, I think is very important for change as well.

I think, an example from the Canadian International Development Agency, Women in Development programme is a noteworthy movement forward in which there has been a policy on Women in Development adopted. They have developed guidelines for implementation, and there even is a movement now into specific programming initiatives in Women in Development. And I believe that that is largely been at request and because of the interest of the president of that agency, Mrs Catley Carlson.

I think there is time now for environment and development to also gain that type of support at the senior levels in these agencies.

And I must commend Mr Bruce for the movement that CIDA is now making into developing environmental programming, targeting programming for that purpose, and I hope that they will develop, and I encourage them to develop specific environment policies, environmental management and development policy and to make it a public policy so that all Canadians can participate in that.

Speaker on the floor

Concerning the Sahel problem of drought, I think it would be wise, and I am speaking on behalf of a large number of scientists, called the Planters Association of ..., to consider that this drought has been caused by the 24-hour emissions produced from the Soviet Union in extreme low frequencies that have been able to deflect various movements of air and other fluid masses in the atmosphere, and because the technology involved is quite advanced and very little understood, it has been skimmed over as a possibility of affect.

But it is very interesting that these extreme low frequency emissions have started a few weeks before the Sahel drought started, and are still going on. I would therefore ask you, as has been stated here in Ottawa a few years ago by the International Council of Scientific Unions head, Mr Croyd Skio, who is a Soviet scientist too, that it is very important if we want to keep a clean earth that we must be very careful about how we use electromagnetic fields, such as extreme low frequencies in constant propagation. Thank you.

Yves Jordan

My name is Yves Jordan and I have 20 years of background in water management research and experimentation. I was very interested in listening to what has been said this morning, but I noticed an important peg missing. It was alluded to by a few people but never in a real institutional way. That is governments, that is international bodies are incapable really of doing things happen off the ground.

What is to be introduced that is a very delicate thing, it is a level of decentralization where you give back the responsibility of development, not only economic development but also environmental and human development to the peasants at the grass root level. If you don't do that the present trend will go on because in spite of all the money which was spent over the last 30 years on environmental concerns, the balance is negative, we have not improved the situation. On the contrary, it is deteriorating everywhere, in the Sahel, in the developed countries, it is deteriorating.

The measures taken, the famous environmental impact statements are biased, slanted, because governments have short-term concerns for rentability, for money back. That comes from tax and tax comes from activities which have an economic return. Until we do give something to do and to decide to the lower level there is no hope that we'll do something.

Now, to be brief, there are many reasons for that to be so. One is, too much focus on economic development and short-term concerns, which I said now; too much distance between governments and grass roots, that is decentralization; and an extremely heavy weight of a sector-biased bureaucracy. I could hear from Mr Lessard's very interesting sentence "they used the women for planting the trees". It is very good, but in fact what they did, they succeeded in generating the initiative from the women to do it, which is a different way of thinking. We are just catalysts in development, we from the West. The

initiative has to come from the grass roots, and the point that I have taken in my later years of research is to do that we have first have to take the situation as is, governments as they are, institutions as they are, increase the efficiency.

More money is not what is necessary, it is more efficiency in the use of money; more whatever, institutions like the Hon. Charles Caccia was recommending, is only going to achieve something if we have this grass root level. And to do it without making ripples, because ripples are going to destroy everything. The first thing to do would be to decentralize information, ways to, for the peasants to gather information relevant to their future, to their well-being. That's what is included in a brief I submitted to the Commission, and I hope it will be taken into account. It is important. Thank you.

#### Hayden Burgess

My name is Hayden Burgess, I come from Hawaii and I am associated with the World Council of Indigenous People. First, if I may briefly explain the World Council. We represent indigenous peoples from the Pacific Areas, from North America, South America, Central America and the Nordic Sami (?) areas of Norway, Sweden and Finland.

I take special delight in following the most recent speaker, because I would like to follow in basically the same line that he had spoken in. And in addressing myself, first I would like to begin by reading just one short paragraph of a presentation recently made to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and this address is the indigenous peoples' view to the earth.

We say earth is not a commodity to be bought back and forth to maximize profit or to be damaged for scientific exploration or tests. The earth is the foundation of indigenous peoples. It is the seat of spirituality, the fountain from which our cultures and languages flourish. The earth is our historian,

the keeper of events and bones of our forefathers. Earth provides us food, medicine, shelter and clothing. It is a source of our independence, it is our mother. We do not dominate her, we must harmonize with her.

And in line with this philosophy, I would like to introduce a more basic systematic concept of the environment that principally comes from Hawaii. But in my experience, I find that we share it in common with many indigenous people. And that is that we recognize basically five elements, five god-elements and these are the elements of the sun, which stands for life, which stands for warmth; the elements of the wind which stands for time; the elements of the water which stand for change or fluidity, the element of the land which stands for stability and the last element, the human element, the who element.

All five of these elements are god-elements and because we are all god-elements we believe that one element cannot dominate the other. But we have a special relationship with one another.

And I think it is important that we understand this relationship because only by understanding this relationship that we understand the environment is not here to serve man, the environment is not here so that man can promote his economic growth. But instead what we need to do is learn how to harmonize with one another, so that we can pool ourselves to a continual harmony that will go on for ever, rather than trying to maximize the potential of the environment, to continue to increase man's wealth.

So, I think, basically for environmentalists we have to come down to this basic question: what do we view environment as? Is it really to serve mankind? Is it to further the increase of man's materialistic development? To see how long and how far we can stretch the natural resources before it reaches its breaking point? Or are we really talking about trying to maintain a balance among all of these god-elements, so as to perpetuate a continual harmony among us all?

And I think that unless we resolve ourselves as to what direction we intend to go, we will continue to take the same or very similar pathways that we have taken all along. Viewing ourselves as being able to dominate these other elements, to serve only one of the god-elements, the man-element and as a result of that we will continue to go in the direction that we have gone so far. I thank you for your attention.

Stuart Tastan

My name is Stuart Tastan, I am with the National Farmers Union. I was interested in Michael Sweatman's statements and earlier in the Hon. Charles Caccia's statement as former Minister of the Environment. I believe, Mr Sweatman was making the point of the importance of narrowing the we-they gap in terms of the whole area of conservation and development, and by that I assume that "we" represented us as people represented by governments and "they" would be the private sector, the industrial sector.

END OF TAPE 19 - SIDE 1



TAPE 19 - SIDE 2

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Cont. of Eastan's statement

but there is more than one way of narrowing the gap, and I understand perhaps the direction he was coming from in terms of needing to narrow the gap. But often times the gap can also be narrowed by the collusion of government and industry through the process of deregulation which really works against the interests of common people, such as us, thereby creating another gap really, between the aspirations of people such as us, who have been at this forum, and the goals and objectives of the private governments as represented by the industrial sector.

And often politicians then become caught up in the conflict, or the contradiction that this poses for them. And I could not help but thinking in listening to the Hon. Charles Caccia whether he may have had some problems in terms of dealing with the government when he was a minister in view of the very good philosophy that he put forward on the environment, and whether or not the direction in which our current government is committed towards further deregulation to accommodate and encourage industry to invest is really narrowing the "we - they" gap in a direction which we as people do not wish to move. I would appreciate comments from either Mr Sweatman or Mr Caccia or both. Thank you.

Dr Khalid

I think I would like to listen to the lady over there.

Speaker on the floor

I would like to continue the thing that you talked about, about coming down to the basic question. I would like to talk about environmental law in light of the fact that environmental awareness is only just emerging between public and political departments.

One of the problems we have, in my country - I come from Denmark, is that the environmentalists have the problem that they are often accused by industry of being envious, that we are just using the environmental problems to limit the more successful people in their freedom of action. That is what they really want, that is what is behind their action.

It is a big problem for us, of course, because we do not want to limit anybody in their freedom of action. We are a liberal sort of people, but we have to admit that there is a true point in that what you say, because that is the point that we have reached now. Mankind has always been very creative, they have been urged to change things, they have been urged to say: "I have made this - you can see I have been there, it has changed".

But now we just have to come to limit this creativeness, we have to limit people in their freedom of action, which is very unpleasant. And I don't think there is no international body, no person who really wants to say that they have to write to say which kind of pollution is legal and which is not. It will always be an unjust, inobjective way of limiting this freedom.

What I want to do is try to make a specific suggestion on the basis of what I just said to the Commission because ... that has been suggested here several times. Like, I think, when you

started the discussions and the international negotiations, you shouldn't start talking about social systems, and economics and all the other kinds of areas that are related to environmental problems, but just go down to the environment.

And what you could do there was to say like: For each little lake, for each little creek, for each little rock (one or two look like this) put a label on it. This lake has to be completely unpolluted, this lake has to be a lake where salmon can lay eggs - that is label B. Then you can say label C, this lake has to be a lake where fish can be, salmon can live there; label D, where other fish can live; label E, where people can go swimming and so on.

And then you could have each municipality put a label on all their areas in there and have a consensus on that. That would be like to going down to the environmental basis and have that kind of labelling system all over the face of the earth. Maybe it sounds like utopia, but then I can tell you that we did that in Denmark, actually.

We did it with our waters, every municipality has labelled all their waters and then when they have that basis they can start putting people in jail or telling people what they can't do and can do and things like that. And also when somebody pollutes water, which is not allowed, the state helps them, the state would help that industry get a cleaning sort of facility. So it is not the polluter pays system but it is like a common interest, because it is common future. That is what I wanted to say. Thank you.

Mr Roots

Thank you Mr Chairman, My name is Roots from the department of Environment in Ottawa. I would like to draw the attention of the Commission to one recent development that has aspects both from this morning's earlier discussion on legal development and

the later discussion on aid questions. And this is to do with the marine environment and the very rapid change in the marine political and legal scene with the rush towards the declaration of exclusive economic zones around the coastlines of the world.

There are a 138 countries which can be considered to be coastal states, depending on how one judges them. Of these 103 countries have declared an exclusive economic zone out to 200 nautical miles or their equivalent of it in the last six years. And this movement has completely altered both the political scene and some questions of environmental resource management scene in the world as a whole.

Some of these states have declared the zones under the general framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which was mentioned earlier. Some have chosen not to do so and therefore there are some different rules being applied as to how the resources would be managed, who is responsible or able to look at the collecting of information, the sharing and reporting of it.

How this very radical change in the organization of responsibility for global resources will work out is yet to be seen. But the exclusive economic zones now declared include more than 95 per cent of the known fishery stocks of the world, green fishery stocks, and a very large proportion of the exploitable minerals. Whatever is the future course of the responsibility for developing these areas, two questions are quite readily becoming apparent, which I think will need to be taken into consideration by the Commission.

One is that by far the greatest proportion of the exclusive economic zones around the world's coastlines now declared, are claimed by countries which do not have a highly sophisticated indigenous marine science capacity themselves. The second point is that because the main objective for declaration of these zones has been a mixture of both political independence and the hope for resources.

The picture in the new future for international economic aid will very likely be turned very strongly towards marine questions, whereas most of the international aid capacity of the donor countries has been structured on terrestrial questions. I think both of these questions, Mr Chairman, deserve serious consideration by the Commission.

Marcel Frenette

My name is Marcel Frenette, Professor at Laval University. My speciality is mainly related to problems of erosion, sedimentation and river engineering. As it has been mentioned since the beginning, Mr Chairman, all over the world and mainly in the Third World countries, land abuse, agricultural deforestation, desertification and water scarcity problems are all closely tied to poverty, needs and population pressures. Much of the environmental degradation in the world is the result of the disparate search of the human beings for basic needs, which means water, food, and energy. Also, considering the fact that the world population is increasing, one must consider the fact that the problems will also increase if nothing is done.

Widespread economic problems and environmental problems have been presented and identified to the Commission by many others, also their effect on the environmental and ecosystems of rivers, lakes, reservoirs, estuaries and seas. Soil erosion, the single most important factor in such degradation is a natural and ongoing process which increases continually with time and affects progressively the ecosystems and the environment at unacceptable levels.

In this regard, Mr Chairman, I would like to forward two recommendations. That is one step forward of what the Hon. Tom McMillan, Canadian Minister of Environment, made yesterday to the Commission. Let me recall those two recommendations. He mentioned that the Commission propose a mechanism by which the

countries around the world could in prominence share their knowledge of the planet, establish guidelines and thus solve the problems. Here I am speaking about the problems of erosion.

Also that the Commission has to put an international organization in place with the responsibility to define a multidisciplinary approach for the preparation of provision and scenario. In this regard I would like to recommend strongly a world soul (?) conservation strategy, which could initiate a programme to help establish healthy community environment consistent with the global needs of conservation and development to an international sedimentological decade, for instance 1989-1999.

Complement a multidisciplinary support of national and international research programmes that would bridge the gaps between all the organizations, whatever it is, governments, agencies, professional agencies, scientific organizations and others could be come aware and participate in projects that start off with the world in mind.

And also - my second recommendation, Mr Chairman - this, I believe, should be under the sponsorship of the United Nations and since the UNESCO about two years ago has founded a new Research Centre called the International Research and Training Centre on Erosion and Sedimentation, regrouping many specialists in the problem of erosion and sedimentation, - may I mention the fact that the headquarters of that Centre is in Beijing, China, and I am a member of that Centre - to ask this Centre to initiate the planning and strategic organization for such a decade in order to make global recommendations for action to the Commission before the end of its mandate. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Fin Lenge

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Fin Lenge from Greenland, I represent the Inner Circumpolar Conference Environmental Commission. The ICCEC is a transnational organization representing the native aboriginal people of Alaska, Canada and Greenland and it is an UN NGO.

I was very pleased to listen to the Vice President of the World Groups of Indigenous Peoples a little while ago and the gentleman just before him stressed that there is entirely too much of a distance between the governments and the grassroots, or the moss roots of the tundra, if you wish. Initiative has to come from the grass roots we heard.

Yes - There exists on all five continents groups of people who do live in harmony with the natural resources. They are the Fourth World people, we all know them. The Inuard of the Arctic, and Indians of the Americas, the Sami of Norway and Sweden, the Maori of New Zealand, the aboriginals of Australia, etc, etc. These people are by and large innocent. Innocent of this appalling list of negligence and crimes against the environment which this assembly can pull out of the sleeve in a matter of a few minutes. More than that, they do represent an invaluable treasury of knowledge accumulated over milleniums about how to deal with nature, how to harvest its resources without threatening its balance and its future reproductivity.

Industrialized society which is so busy destroying our world while pulling out some short-term profit, they have a lot to learn from the Fourth World peoples if this same industrialized society would only show a little more humility. My time is ultra short, I know, so I'll make this intervention very short and go straight to the point.

I want to make an appeal to this good assembly, to everybody taking part in this meeting to help reversing the ways in which dominant societies are treating their aboriginal population

groups. Stop repressing them, help stop minority genocide, because it takes place here and there. Please don't forget that it is incumbent on all of us to save not only the rain forests but also people living in the rain forests. After all, they are men and women and children like all the rest of us. And they are in this very moment being liquidated in the rainforests environmental degradation process.

Please help us reverse the trend, please help make the government establishments which many of you do represent, government establishments around the world understand that the aboriginal minorities are entitled to respect in their own right, and that they do have something to offer; that there is no sense in campaigning for harmony between man and nature while at the same time destroying of the only specimens of homo sapiens who actually do live out this harmony. The work for harmonization between environment and development cannot be conducted without taking the fourth world people into the process. Listen to them, give them an opportunity to take part in the decision process. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Dr. Khalid

I think we have really passed the time, and maybe, I'll just give one chance to the lady over there and then we will go for lunch, and I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we will have a very important meeting this afternoon because we are going to discuss the role of youth and education in the process of development and the protection of the environment. So we would like to see everybody participating in that debate.

Janine Feretti

I work with Pollution Probe Foundation. As many of you know there's many a great efforts on the part of multilateral, bilateral aid agencies to develop environmental policies to



guide their activities. And as also many of you know there have been a number of projects associated or carried out by these same agencies that have been associated with negative environmental consequences. And it seems to indicate that while there is an environmental policy there is a gap between having a policy and the desired results, and that is because the policy is not integrated into the activities and programmes of those agencies.

Now, I would like to link this to something that Commissioner Salim and Mr Thatcher were pointing to and that is the need to integrate environment and development within nations, within countries, and one of the most obvious mechanisms for doing this seems to me for countries to develop national environmental policies, a national environmental policy for a particular country and that this is very similar to the idea that was proposed by our Scandinavian NGO's when they proposed an environmental foreign policy.

What we are proposing here is an environmental national policy. And that this national policy be a framework within which policies for each of the government agencies could be develop and integrated so that a ministry for industrial regional expansion for example has an environmental policy and its activities and programmes reflect that. Because, as we see, environment and development will never really be integrated as long as we keep having the model that we have as our own Minister described so appropriately, where one minister of environment, or environmental officer of a development agency, plays the role of a traffic policeman blowing the whistle on each of his colleagues or departments. That's it.

Dr Khalid

We adjourn the meeting, and I hope to see you all at 2.30.

Morning Session Adjourned