
Extracts from speech made by H. E. Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, United Nations Secretary-General

I would like, first of all, to congratulate you most warmly on the felicitous choice you have made for the Award of your Prize this year. Already a Nobel Laureate for his outstanding services to peace in Europe, Mr Willy Brandt has also made a contribution of lasting significance and value to an understanding of the North-South problem. It seems to me a most welcome and enlightened sign of global solidarity that the Third World Prize should be conferred on an illustrious citizen of the First World. For the three worlds, the First and the Second and the Third, are interdependent to such a degree that it would be folly to regard the concerns of one as marginal to the concerns of another.

The concept of one world, all of whose segments must be equally committed to peace and contribute proportionately to development, is no longer merely an idealistic one. It is a demand of the most rigorous realism that we acknowledge the imperative of building a system of relations responsive to the needs of all. This recognition does not depend on one's affiliation to any particular society, culture or ideology; all it takes is a look at the global situation from a global point of view.