

agreements on a number of broad policy objectives. Today we are called on to translate those generalized agreements into concrete economic results. As a result, different methods of negotiation need to be found--methods which take account, for example, of the development prospects of individual countries, of the situation of individual countries as exporters or importers of energy, as exporters or importers of manufactured products, as producers or consumers of commodities, and of capacities to achieve greater self-sufficiency in food. Canada will, therefore, do its utmost in the forthcoming negotiations to go beyond generalized approaches and into the specific opportunities each area of consideration offers.

Because all of the subjects proposed for the agenda for the global negotiations cannot be simultaneously examined, it is essential that we select the most urgent for intensive consideration. Let me briefly review a number of key problems.

The most compelling of our challenges remains the plight of the world's poorest people, almost a billion of whom live on the borderline of human existence. This is unacceptable and intolerable to the global conscience. We must ensure that they have access to the most fundamental of human requirements: food, shelter, health care, sanitation, clean water, education -- things which all humans have a right to expect. The draft of the International Development Strategy identifies qualitative goals for these requirements to which we all subscribe: to prolong life expectancy, to end illiteracy, to enhance health standards, to improve nutrition. But there must also be quantitative goals for the poorest countries. They need material assistance, and of necessity it must come from those countries which are richer. To launch such a war on world poverty, we will need widespread public awareness of the necessity of these goals -- a subject which I will touch on later in my remarks.

For many other developing countries, the higher the levels of development, the more complex the problems become -- problems considered in the draft agenda for global negotiations. Again, however, generalized proposals will make little impact on the real economic situations that prevail. For that reason, Canada encourages the use of the relevant specialized forums of the United Nations system in the global negotiations. In that way, we can explore in depth the questions of trade, finance and food so that the full force of international instruments can be applied to help the developing countries.