

### The Dialogue with Developing Countries

25. Ministers gave their full support to current efforts to improve the dialogue with developing countries, in order to allow for substantive discussions aimed at pragmatic solutions. Moreover, they were committed to making a positive contribution to the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and to the major forthcoming United Nations conferences, i.e. UNIDO IV and the International Conference on Population.

### EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS

26. Ministers expressed satisfaction with the work programme on East-West trade and financial relations carried out by the Organisation. They noted that there had been an improvement in the short-term financial situation of most East European countries, but that the structural characteristics of the economies of these countries and the practices of their state trading systems remain important factors affecting the longer-term development of East-West economic relations.

27. Ministers reiterated that East-West trade and credit flows should be guided by the indications of the market. In the light of these indications, governments should continue to exercise financial prudence without granting preferential treatment. Ministers agreed that the Organisation should pursue its examination of problems and developments in East-West economic relations on the basis of last year's guidance.

### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

#### Reducing Trade Barriers and Distortions

28. Ministers recalled their agreement of last year to make use of the favourable conditions provided by economic recovery to reverse protectionist trends and to relax and dismantle progressively trade restrictions and trade-distorting domestic measures. As a first step governments have agreed, subject to completion of requisite domestic procedures, to advance by one year, to early 1985, all tariff cuts scheduled for 1986 pursuant to the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Ministers expressed the hope that through such a process of acceleration all the remaining scheduled MFN tariff reductions would be achieved not later than early in 1986, one year ahead of time. Member countries which do not already provide duty and quota free access for all imports from the least developed countries will seek to move further in that direction, in particular through their schemes for generalised preferences.