

Latin America offers another region of potential partnerships. Geopolitically, Canada has been screened from Latin America by the bulk of the United States. Our relationships with Latin American nations have tended to be one-dimensional, based largely on trade. We intend to broaden our relationships, in particular, with Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela, with an accent on a mutually beneficial relationship of the widest possible scope.

Canada has two regional relationships which are integrally linked to our interests in both the Commonwealth and la Francophonie. If I had more time, I would speak about both the Commonwealth Caribbean and Francophone West Africa.

Canada's growing economic links with developing countries are not Canada's only interests in seeking the economic prosperity of the Third World. This would be a betrayal of how Canadians see our responsibilities towards the developing world. Promoting social justice is an important domestic objective of this government. It has a clear international dimension which finds its reflection in Canada's foreign policy. It is central to our approach to the North-South dialogue, to Canadian development assistance, to human rights issues and to humanitarian questions. It is a major theme of emphasis in Canada's foreign policy. The government is, indeed, pleased to endorse the broad thrust of the report of the Parliamentary Task Force on North-South Relations.

A few moments ago, I heard what I can only call the politically-motivated attack of the Honourable Member for Kingston and the Islands, Miss MacDonald, on the Prime Minister's leadership on North-South issues over the years. I think the world would find such criticisms laughable. At Commonwealth meetings and in his Mansion House address, which is considered a classic throughout the world in the statement of the responsibilities of Northern countries, in the development and implementation of policies which are among the most favourable in the world to Third World countries, the world has recognized the leadership which the Prime Minister has brought to this field.

Because of time limitations, I shall leave the full range of my comments on North-South issues and the Breau Report for tomorrow's debate. At the moment I would note only that the theme of social justice in Canada's foreign policy is clearly apparent in questions touching the rights of the individual. The rights of the individual are at the basis of our political system. It is therefore essential that the promotion of human rights be part of the framework of Canadian foreign policy.