

North and South. There is no message which we consider more important to convey to those who read our report." This is in fact an extension into the North-South area of a long-standing role of Canadian diplomacy in the tradition of St. Laurent, Pearson, and Martin.

**Multilateral
approach
necessary**

I have spoken about what we, Canada, can do in assisting the poorest countries. However, multilateral agreements, universally determined, remain fundamental to Canada's approach to finding effective solutions to global problems. There is no substitute for such a multilateral approach; and such an approach is, in my view, embodied in the proposal for holding "global negotiations". A large degree of consensus has been achieved on the launching of the global negotiations which are intended to deal with major issues in the fields of raw materials, energy, trade, development, money and finance.

It's important that these negotiations be launched and that they succeed. There are, of course, many different perceptions of what success represents and how it will be defined. Considerable compromise on all sides will be necessary to reach agreement on procedures and agenda. I remain hopeful that the international community will respond positively to the challenge.

If one looks back at the agenda over the past few months, a certain positive momentum has built up. The UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, the Conference on the Least-Developed Countries recently held in Paris, and the Ottawa Summit have all served to move things in a positive direction characterized by what I would like to call — in a cautiously optimistic way — a new realism. On the other hand, there has undeniably been a hesitancy on the part of certain important developed and developing countries to enter fully into this process. But there has of late been less rhetoric on all sides, and a more business-like attitude. The Cancun North-South Summit is the most immediate item on the forthcoming North-South agenda and I hope that it will maintain and increase the momentum. But I remain under no illusions that this will be an easy task. I hope you will forgive me for saying that I believe your expectations — worthy ones, to be sure — may go well beyond the possibilities.

**Objectives of the
Cancun Summit**

There is, of course one specific issue of particular importance at Cancun — that is the launching of global negotiations at the UN in New York. While it was recognized at the preparatory meetings that there would be no formal link with global negotiations, it was agreed that a major objective of the Cancun Summit would be to facilitate agreement on them. Canada is hopeful that the Summit will prove to be such a catalyst. But, this would be a procedural, rather than a substantive, advance.

In Canada's view, the North-South Summit will be useful in focusing the attention of world leaders on pressing global economic problems and in increasing understanding of their respective interests and concerns. The Summit cannot itself take decisions on behalf of countries not present, but it can make an important statement of will and perhaps reach a consensus on priorities. This, in turn, would give political impetus to ongoing negotiations in international fora. In this regard, I will ensure that the resolutions emerging from your conference related to the North-South agenda will be