

expressed their appreciation of the results of the Ottawa Summit.

Another important initiative in North-South relations this year will be the Summit at Cancun. We hope that the Cancun Summit will foster understanding of the key North-South issues and give political impetus to their resolution in whatever fora may be appropriate. We do not see the Summit as a substitute for global negotiations -- no non-universal forum can be. But we do see it as a catalyst for them. And while the nature of the North-South Summit precludes participation by all of the interested parties, we welcome the link with the United Nations as represented by the presence at Cancun of Secretary-General Waldheim.

While admitting the value of summits, however, universally-determined multilateral agreements remain fundamental to our search for effective solutions to global problems. For this reason, a large degree of consensus has been reached on the launching of global negotiations. While admitting that compromise on all sides will be necessary in that process, I believe there is new willingness to face this challenge. Preparatory discussions will resume during this session, and I pledge Canada's determination to work for a successful outcome.

Within Canada during the past year, we have taken a number of steps to enable us to play a more active and constructive role in international co-operation in these vital areas. A Parliamentary Task Force on North-South Relations tabled a major and invaluable report. It advocated strongly that Canada continue to play an active North-South role, based on the principles of mutual benefit and humanitarianism, and made a series of constructive recommendations relating to energy, finance, trade, food and development assistance. Our government has been pleased with the broad support the report has received and with the increased public awareness fostered by the work of the Task Force.

Parallel to the work of the Parliamentary Task Force, and drawing on it, the Canadian government also conducted a review of North-South policy. We have affirmed a number of fundamental issues, including a recognition of interdependence, the need for harmonization of external and domestic policies which have an impact on developing countries, the need to employ a variety of instruments to meet the needs of developing countries, and greater integration of the South in the international economic system.