

Some Hard Facts About the World Today

North and South are not, of course, precise geographical divisions of the rich and poor. Japan, for example, can be considered in economic terms part of both the "North" and the "West." Neither the "North" nor the "South" is homogeneous. The seven nations meeting in Ottawa in July have market economies, while the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc have planned economies. Among the countries of the South, the poorest have annual

per-capita incomes below \$360, the middle income ones have incomes considerably above that mark, and some oil exporters such as Saudi Arabia have per-capita incomes that are among the highest in the world. Nevertheless, the essential truth is that the world is still divided between the haves and the have-nots, and most of the first are in the North and most of the rest are not.

Trudeau on the North and South

In the course of his introduction of President Reagan to the Canadian House of Commons on March 11, Prime Minister Trudeau touched on the problems of rich nations and poor.

"As to North and South, Mr. President, we are not dismayed by the complexity of the problems. The poverty of the developing countries does not have to be permanent, nor is it unalloyed. The gap between the two groups is neither racial nor unbridgeable. In the growth of the oil-producing states, in the vigour of the newly industrialized countries, there is convincing testimony to the dynamism and potential of the developing world. In the unity of the 'South'

there is not so much an identity of circumstances but an idea, a point of view, a shared sense of injustice. The poorer peoples are at the mercy of circumstances that leave them out of balance, often out of hope, and too often vulnerable to opportunists who come poaching in troubled waters. The industrialized democracies have not only a human duty but a *strategic* obligation to help developing countries in their struggle, their survival and their success.

"Mr. President, humanity will prevail. We in the New World can never be pessimists. For we are in a very real sense the custodians of the future."



The map is based on the Peters Projection, developed by Dr. Arno Peters of the University of Bremen, which shows more accurately the proportions of the land surface area than does the more familiar Mercator Projection.