South Africa

Mr. Chairman, beyond this region, other violent conflicts continue to bring misery and oppression to millions of people. I have noted and welcome your statement on South Africa. At the Venice Summit, Canada sought and obtained a discussion on South Africa in which there was a strong consensus that apartheid must be ended. Canada is working with some of you in the Commonwealth, and elsewhere, to maintain steady pressure upon Pretoria, and to keep lines open to those whose cooperation in Southern Africa might prevent plunging that subcontinent into bloody violence.

Narcotics Control

Regarding illicit drugs, the Conference now underway in Vienna may provide both the political will and an action plan for dealing with this menace to all our societies.

Canada will be increasing its contributions to the United Nations Fund on Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). These will will be earmarked for development projects in drug production regions and will help improve health services and provide support for alternate crops.

International Economic Situation

Mr. Chairman, the Economic Summit held in Venice last week made significant progress in a number of areas of crucial importance to all of us. We in Canada will be seeking to build on these results as we prepare to host a succession of important meetings, including the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and La Francophonie Summit this fall, and the Toronto Economic Summit next June.

In Venice, we agreed on means to reduce the international economic imbalances which are a major obstacle to improving the prospects for economic growth, both in developed and developing countries. The Venice Communique also made specific reference to the need for the newly industrialized countries to take on more responsibility in maintaining a sound world economy and trading system, bearing in mind their rapid growth and large external surpluses.

Canada was pleased that the Venice meeting devoted more attention than usual to the economic situation of developing countries. In this context, I should say that the ASEAN Memorandum was most helpful. We enphasized the plight of the poorest countries whose resources are clearly inadequate to allow them to deal with their crushing burden of debt, and discussed specific and practical solutions.