

I have spoken of Canada's role and purposes in world affairs. I have spoken particularly of the compelling need for progress in North-South relations. I have placed the issues involved in the context of the need for the international community to mobilize itself to manage crises more effectively. The summit meeting in Ottawa in July will have a particular importance in determining our collective ability to deal with the problems I have described.

Those are the issues that I wanted to discuss in the consultations I have undertaken in the last several months with the leaders of some key developing countries. I considered it important that the views of major nations such as Brazil, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Nigeria and others I have visited, be taken into account by the summit leaders.

I am very conscious of the Canadian role and interest in these matters. Canada alone cannot come up with viable solutions. But we can contribute to them. Moreover, we need to strengthen relationships with a variety of countries whose interests in economic development correspond to our own. These include the countries I have visited.

For Canadians, the state of the world is of deep importance, and not least because a healthy international environment is vital to Canadian economic growth. We need stronger economic links not only with developing countries but also with our summit partners. Fundamentally, it is these economic partnerships which will stimulate the pace of development, both here and abroad.

I have not covered all aspects of our foreign policy, Madam Speaker. Many other vital Canadian concerns will be addressed by my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. MacGuigan, later in this debate, and by other members sitting on this side of the Chamber. I have sought to focus the attention of the House on those areas of crisis and of opportunity where the most basic interests of our people, as human beings and as Canadians, are at stake.

I have done so with confidence that Canada will rise to the challenge of our times, and in so doing will contribute to justice, stability and peace in this still wonderful world.