

cannot be overemphasized.

I understand that members of the Subcommittee will be making an effort to ensure that Canadians are made more aware of the issues involved in our relations with developing countries. Discussion in this Subcommittee and efforts by each of you to air these questions with the Canadian people will make a valuable contribution to improving understanding of the issues.

The Canadian people should be made aware of the costs and benefits, in economic and political terms, of action that may be taken by Canada in favour of developing countries through the budget for our International Development Program, through improved access to the Canadian market for developing-country exports, and through agreements to stabilize international trade and commodities. There may be domestic economic costs, but in the longer term the cost of doing too little could be much greater.

I see, therefore, the need for continuing consultations between this Subcommittee and myself and my officials. I look forward to this dialogue and I should be pleased to try to answer some questions, although I doubt whether we can carry the discussion much further than we have carried it already until you have probably made more progress in your studies and we have made more progress in ours.

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