

in either developed or developing countries to blight the opportunities for enhanced trade and mutual prosperity. In this connection, I think that the ASEAN countries and Canada have much in common. I hope we can collaborate in developing a consensus on a balanced agenda for the expected new round of multilateral trade negotiations. As indicated the other day, I expect to have senior officials of my Government out to consult with yours to determine how best to achieve that objective.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out Canada's appreciation for the effective and constructive nature of the views which ASEAN presented to Summit countries prior to our meeting in Bonn. I would not pretend that we were able to accommodate all your concerns but your input informed our discussions in a most helpful manner both at the Bonn Summit, and in other international fora. Canada has made it a particular priority to ensure that the concerns of developing countries are fully recognized. In this connection, I was very pleased to have discussions with the ASEAN Heads of Mission in Ottawa just before the Bonn Summit this spring, and I can assure you that the ASEAN views, as expressed in their representations to me, were very much taken into account in our participation in these meetings.

Sir, an important question on the international agenda is the strengthening of the United Nations and its agencies. Canada considers that this question requires urgent attention from all Member States. None of us would argue that the United Nations functions as well as its founders intended. We are nevertheless united in an appreciation of the vital importance of multilateral efforts to resolve the varied and ever more complex challenges confronting today's world. Forty years after its establishment, the UN remains the focal point for blending together the interests of the international community. However, without any question at all, the UN system needs to be strengthened. This could be facilitated by ensuring that contentious political questions are dealt with in the political organs and not in the specialized agencies. There is also an urgent requirement to improve the management of United Nations institutions, particularly the specialized agencies such as UNESCO and the FAO. We need also to rationalize the work of the General Assembly. I believe that Canada and its ASEAN partners can collaborate to good effect to bring about these changes which we believe would help to revitalize the United Nations. And we are all realistic here. We know that what is needed is not a series of dramatic statements - but a step by step gradual and