

global economic growth, the restraint of inflation and the fuller employment of human and material resources.

— The necessity of improving public understanding of the need for change in the countries participating in the interdependent international system.

— The need for developed Commonwealth countries to recognize the importance of increased and stable flows of aid, finance and investment in developing countries.

We could continue much longer with the list. The point is, however, that the emerging awareness in the world for new economic policies and structures which can make more equitable sharing of the world's resources possible has been recognized for some time by the Commonwealth as an institution. Canada, for its part, will continue to use the Commonwealth — with the United Nations' organizations and other appropriate international fora — as an instrument to achieve these goals.

As some of you perhaps know, considerable disappointment has been expressed over the failure of the recent Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on North-South issues to meet its objectives. I personally, am still hopeful that with ingenuity and genuine good will we can still find our way around the differences which prevail.

Canadian  
initiatives

I have said that Canada will continue to utilize, with other nations, I hope, the United Nations' system. But we will also look to other instrumentalities to achieve consensus on useful approaches. For example, at that Special Session of the United Nations, I announced our government's intention to establish a Futures Secretariat under the Canadian International Development Agency. Its role will be to initiate and support activities in Canada which will inform our people and sensitize them to the importance of understanding international development issues. This secretariat will receive the major part of its support from the government, but we hope that it will also be supported by the business community, universities, professional institutions and voluntary associations, whose co-operation is vital to its success.

In addition, we intend to actively support other initiatives in strengthening the North-South dialogue. The Brandt Commission Report proposed the convening of a mini-summit meeting of developed and developing countries to focus attention on the most pressing issues — an initiative in which we will participate fully. We also intend to work to ensure that North-South issues are given a major priority on the agenda of the next summit meeting of the most industrialized nations — a meeting of heads of government which Canada will host in 1981.

Finally, at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Canberra, Australia next year we intend to do all in our power to make it the focus of attention — particularly given the presence of leaders of both developed and developing countries.

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, I hope that we can obtain the understanding and support of all Canadians in the search for solutions to the problems I have touched on tonight. For our part, the government will continue to utilize the institution of the Commonwealth because we recognize that — as a microcosm of the North and South — it can continue to play a key role in breaking down barriers to international justice and progress. It has succeeded in this in the past and is now in a position to once again accept this important challenge.