

also not be considered a total failure. While it is always difficult to sum up an international meeting in a few words, I believe the Special Session should be regarded simply as one more way-station in a long and often frustrating process of dialogue and negotiation between a host of countries with very differing interests and perspectives.

As you are aware, the final results of the Session were twofold. On the International Development Strategy a consensus on substance was reached and the Strategy will come into effect on January 1, 1981. Formal adoption, however, was deferred until the current Regular Session as the Group of 77 preferred that it be linked to the launching of the Global Negotiations. In spite of the fact that the IDS does not conform to all of Canada's policies, — and reservations or interpretative statements will thus be necessary on some aspects — the adoption of a development strategy for the 1980s will be an important symbol of the determination of all governments to work together to foster the development of developing countries in the coming years.

#### Global Negotiations

Progress in recent years has been slow, however. Developing countries had therefore focused on the second objective of the Special Session — the launching of Global Negotiations for international economic co-operation for development — to give a new impetus to the dialogue. As you know, negotiations in New York focused on procedural arrangements for the Global Negotiations to the exclusion of discussions on the agenda. A compromise text was developed involving a three-stage process: in the first phase a central forum in New York would set objectives and guidelines for the negotiations; in a second stage, the actual negotiations would take place in existing specialized institutions or in *ad hoc* groups in New York. In the third, and final stage, the central body would receive the results of those negotiations and arrive at an overall package agreement. This compromise was ultimately acceptable to all delegations — developed as well as developing — except for three countries which remained concerned that the role assigned to the central forum would impinge on the existing mandates and autonomy of the specialized institutions. For its part, Canada, while sharing these concerns, considered that the text offered sufficient protection for the specialized institutions and we therefore supported it as a signal of our commitment to see the Global Negotiations get off the ground.

The end result of the failure to reach full consensus was that the entire question of Global Negotiations was remitted to the current Regular Session of the General Assembly, where open debate is now scheduled to commence on November 17. The President of the Assembly, however, will in the meantime convene a group of countries, probably including Canada, to begin tackling the issue once again.

#### Energy first priority on agenda

Agreement on an agenda, which was the focus of attention in preparatory meetings for the Special Session, will also be difficult. The industrialized countries sought a selective agenda which would focus on key themes in the areas of energy, food and agriculture, trade, development and money and finance. For most, energy was — unsurprisingly — the key priority. Some OPEC [Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries] countries, in particular the surplus-oil producers have, however, not yet taken a clear position and seem anxious to preserve their flexibility with respect to predictability of price and supply, despite their interest in preserving the real value of