

standards, intensifying the insecurities that workers in the industrialized world already feel in the face of technological and economic change.

We must define the problem. We must find a common language, knowledge and understanding — work that should take place in appropriate fora such as the OECD and the ILO [International Labour Organization]. Most importantly, in this area, as with trade and environment, we must make progress only on the basis of mutual consent. Canada does not support the use of trade sanctions to impose standards of conduct. Quite apart from the question of fairness, in a world that is becoming increasingly interdependent, where the one common denominator is adherence to a market-based system, the costs of authorizing any one country to use its economic muscle to impose its own standards are too high for all.

Equally important is the OECD's work on trade and competition policy. It should be possible over the next year to outline those aspects of competition policy of significance to the cross-border flow of goods and services which are ripe for inclusion in a future international agreement. There is already a considerable international agreement with respect to the treatment of hard-core cartels and on the need for information exchange among jurisdictions in order to facilitate enforcement against them. This work may in time also provide the key to dealing with unfair pricing practices of firms without some of the distortions and costs associated with the blunt instrument of anti-dumping.

Likewise, international trade and investment are key elements in the contemporary world economy in which North and South clearly have mutual interests and an increasingly shared responsibility. Canada strongly supports the OECD initiative for a new international investment agreement and intends to participate actively in its development. This work must progress quickly in the working groups which will be established.

But perhaps the most difficult challenge facing the OECD is to help construct an international dialogue and a consensus. A relevant, active OECD can play a major role in facilitating shared discussion, analysis and co-operation. It can also provide member governments with the intellectual ballast needed to help resist domestic pressures for short-term solutions. And it can build bridges, not only among the main industrial economies, but with the newly independent states of Central Europe and the dynamic non-member economies in both Asia and Latin America. This is a process which is increasingly vital in an integrated world economy.

In many ways Marrakech did not mark the end of a long journey — though it certainly felt that way — so much as a new beginning.