

Grappling with these dynamic issues of international economic management has not made our task easier here. Often we have been discussing matters that are part of the complex mosaic of international negotiation elsewhere. Singling out developing-country interests before the other parts of the negotiation are completed becomes increasingly difficult. Here again, however, I would contend that significant gains have been made in our common commitment to advance these interests.

On the trade side, we have welcomed during the CIEC the early implementation of new measures for tropical products as the first concrete results to emerge from the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN). The Canadian Government, responding to this need, implemented our tropical-products offer in its budget this past spring. Except in cases where it proves impractical or inappropriate, Canada will consult with supplying beneficiary countries before withdrawing the GSP (generalized system of preferences) for safeguard purposes. On a broader front, Canada is convinced that the MTN must provide new opportunities for trade and industrial development in developing and raw-material-exporting countries, with improved access to developed-country markets. We support major and comprehensive trade liberalization of tariffs and non-tariff measures on industrial and agricultural products. In this context we believe that questions relating to security of supply and access to markets should be discussed together in the MTN so that all questions of relevance to each sector can be considered in relation to each other.

On the grains side, the Canadian Government endorses the readiness, expressed for the first time in the CIEC, of major exporters and importers to enter early negotiation of a new arrangement. Again, with developing-country interests to be reflected throughout the new agreement, we have found it difficult before the onset of negotiations to specify precise commitments. We should be neither surprised nor discouraged with this fact. An effective settlement in the grains sector will have to deal with interrelated problems — including the need to improve and secure access to world markets for grains and grain products, to limit the detrimental effects of export subsidies, to reduce unnecessary fluctuations in grain prices and to improve world food security. Canada believes the eventual agreement should also include food-aid commitments to ensure minimum levels of food-grain availability as aid on a continuing basis. We are ready to accept a volume commitment in concert with other potential donors. All of this remains to be negotiated, and the CIEC has brought the negotiating stage much closer.

The CIEC has also provided the venue for major economies to announce their readiness to participate in the 500,000-ton emergency grain-reserve. The Canadian Government will participate, provided other countries in a position to contribute will do the same. This reserve will be an important element in enhancing world food security. But world food security and food aid are the responsibility of the entire international community. As the present supplier of one-tenth of the ten-million-ton cereals target, Canada calls on all donors to take urgent measures to reach this goal.

The third milestone is that, over the course of the CIEC, participating countries have shown fresh willingness to look for new solutions to old problems. Sometimes we