

develop. Trade with South Africa is significant but, whereas it was once the main component in our trade with the whole of Africa, this is no longer so. The total volume of our trade with the rest of the continent is now four times as large. The question of the human rights of the black majority has been a prominent element in our policy consideration, but it is evident from letters we receive from concerned Canadians that some at least feel that we should have our own house in better order before we denounce others. They are apprehensive also that majority rule will also mean the loss of human rights by the white minority.

It will be evident from all of this that the resolution of this last phase of colonialism will be a priority concern of Canada, along with the rest of the membership of the UN, for some time to come.

Let me cite as my final example of fundamental change the role of the UN in the areas of economic and social development, which in 1945 was seen to be mainly one of co-ordination. The function of the Specialized Agencies was supposed to be the development of international standards and codes supplemented to the extent necessary by research programs for the good of all, funded by voluntary contributions. Today, 32 years later, economic and social affairs are seen as a major preoccupation of the organization. A program of development assistance, on a scale undreamed of as recently as 15 years ago, forms the principal component of the enormous growth in the financial and human resources commitments of the UN itself and of the Specialized Agencies. The total of the budgets, assessed and voluntary, of the UN family of organizations, is about \$2 billion a year, and most of it goes to meeting economic and social development goals.

Even more important is the fact that the General Assembly, supported by the Economic and Social Council and the UN Conference on Trade and Development, has become the principal platform for the expression of the aspirations of developing countries for a new international economic order.

I guess it would be honest to say that most nations approach the issue of the NIEO with a mixture of concern for the common good and for self-interest, with perceptions tailored to fit the specific situation of the party concerned. The Canadian position is distinctive in that, although we clearly belong in the category of the developed, we have many characteristics shared by the developing nations. In particular, we are a raw-material producer and exporter (sharing the frustrations of the developing nations over the tariff policies of our industrialized customers that obstruct our goal of upgrading), we are a major host to transnational and foreign corporations, and we are a large importer of development capital.

It is obvious that determining Canadian policy in this situation involves the reconciliation of a host of conflicting domestic interests, and there are many who differ strongly with the policy as adopted. Under the circumstances, I shall say only that Canada participates actively in negotiations on these matters in the GATT, in UNCTAD and CIEC, which Mr. MacEachen has been copiloting and which is drawing to a conclusion in Paris. We expect a resumed session of the General Assembly on these issues in September, and you can be sure we will be there in force.
