

In the UN, Canada and Ghana have both been strong supporters of the peacekeeping concept and operations. Our support has been not simply oratorical or financial. We have both contributed large numbers of our men to UN forces and observer groups which have carried out this delicate and difficult but essential work. Unfortunately, a number of our servicemen have lost their lives in this front-line work for international peace. We are naturally peace-seeking as well as peacekeeping nations. We both try -- and succeed -- to play active and constructive roles larger than our populations and strength would indicate in the laborious, intricate and endless task of regulating the conflicts and harmonizing the divergent interests of sovereign states.

Mr. Commissioner, you have referred to the situation in which the people of Ghana find themselves with respect to the present world economic system. You have stated that for your country's developmental efforts to have maximum effect, you need a world economic order which enshrines equity as its most essential underlying element.

Canada and most other countries, including particularly, the developing countries, find themselves beset by problems of monetary instability, inflation, high food prices and sharply increased energy costs. All these factors have severe implications for balance of payments positions and consequently for the ability of countries to manage their own economies. Moreover, in a world which is clearly becoming increasingly interdependent, it would be unrealistic to assume that economic and social conditions (be they good or bad) in one country or region would not affect the economic and social health of other parts of our globe.

Ghana and other developing countries are important to Canada as partners in an interdependent society and economy. Thus, as the International Trade and Payments System undergoes changes, Canada recognizes the need to explore what additional measures are appropriate to ensure that developing countries are able to derive further benefits from international trade, investment and finance. Such measures, in Canada's view, can best be achieved through cooperative efforts in which the real interests of all countries are addressed. Indeed, there is no more urgent development issue than the maintenance of world economic vigour, for when production and demand falter, all countries -- developed and developing -- are bound to suffer.