

That is the message of the Brandt Commission, reflected eloquently in the report of our Parliamentary Task force on North-South Relations. I congratulate the chairman of that task force, the Honourable Member for Gloucester, Mr. Breau, and the members of all the parties in this House who contributed to that most compelling report. Its message is one which the government can endorse and support.

I believe that, despite bleak political prospects for greatly increased aid flows from the recession-prone North, reason will prevail and a major assault on world poverty can still be launched in earnest.

The need to assist the poorest is one emphasis of Canada's efforts in international co-operation. But the primary need of those countries with growing export potential is, as the slogan says, "trade, not aid". These are the countries which are arguing that the world's economic structures work inherently to their perpetual disadvantage. The process which is required to redress their grievances involves the sharing of power, not power in the classical sense of armies and empires, but in the sense of access to the means of development. Gaining that kind of power means gaining access to the international institutions, where the decision-making process should take greater account of developing countries' specific difficulties: access to international capital markets, to greater security in commodity prices; access to technological skills, and to markets for manufactured products.

Other specific and urgent needs will require the concentrated attention of governments, as well. Energy and agriculture are priorities because of the severity of the impact of energy costs on oil-importing developing countries, and because of the danger of food production not being able to keep up with population growth.

I do not expect a sudden breakthrough toward solutions in the series of important international meetings scheduled for the coming months, but I do expect a better political focus on the major priorities. I do not expect that the world's sense of crisis will be entirely eased by whatever collective response we make to the problems of development; but I do think that the basic economic causes of instability in the Third World can be successfully attacked through a co-operative international management effort.