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These consultations have encouraged mutually-reinforcing national action in a number of sectors. There has been a welcome drop in inflation and nominal interest rates. In the debt area, we have seen an outstanding co-operative effort in handling major simultaneous reschedulings.

The IMF has performed with vigour and resilience. Developing countries have adopted courageous adjustment programs to restore their payments equilibrium. International financial institutions and bilateral donors have kept open the flow of resources for development. The GATT ministerial meeting compelled governments to take a hard look at their own behaviour and elicited renewed commitments to the open multilateral trading system. At the Williamsburg Summit, the major Western nations agreed on the vital interdependence of the world economy. The developing countries — seriously affected by the world recession — must be full partners in global recovery.

There is clearly no room for complacency. As I said at Belgrade, there are no quick fixes to problems which are deep and ingrained in the world economy. To turn this partial and uneven recovery into one that is durable and widespread, we shall need action on many fronts. Continuing efforts are essential to reduce interest rates. In responding to the debt problem, we must ensure an adequate flow of funds to the debtor countries to support their adjustment efforts. Adequate official funds must be made available through the IMF and the development institutions, especially to the low income countries, while commercial banks must continue to play an important role in international financing. The needs of IDA [International Development Agency] are particularly acute. For its part, Canada has re-committed itself to increasing Canada's official development assistance to .5 per cent of gross national product by 1985 and to make best efforts to achieve .7 per cent by 1990. We have today deposited our instrument of ratification of the Common Fund for Commodities.

In trade, the task ahead for our governments and international institutions is to work together to carry out and monitor the commitments we have already made. It is positive action, not just pledges, that will build confidence in the trading system and contribute to economic recovery. Canada is actively supporting efforts in the GATT and elsewhere to monitor commitments to resist protectionism. If individual governments are to resist protectionist pressures, they need to know that they are engaged in a genuine collective effort and are not simply standing alone. We are mindful of the vital role of trade in the process of global economic development, and of the contribution which export earnings can make to relieving severe strains on the payments balance of many countries. These efforts require our attention and resolve.

There is another area where co-operation must be nurtured. This is producer-consumer co-operation on petroleum. Repeated energy price shocks have been an important cause of accelerating inflation, lower real growth, the debt crisis and the muting of the North-South dialogue. We are now facing an opportunity for producers and consumers to work together, as a reflection of overwhelming common interests, in conservation, assurance of supply, and a fair, stable long-term price. There is now a greater spirit of realism in consumer-producer relations that offers some hope for pragmatic discussion of oil and related concerns in the coming years.

The international community has spent far too much time in trying to devise new machinery and not