

in the health of the world economy. Full health must be restored and maintained if the international system and the economies of our countries retain and increase their capacity to assist with development needs....

Looking ahead – energy

The lessons of CIEC have been the focus of close scrutiny by all participants but we do not believe that it would be a particularly good use of future time to continue with an intensive analysis of CIEC's results. The need to plan future activity is, to our mind, more imperative now.

There are some paramount questions to be asked as we enter this stage of consolidation: How should the energy "dialogue" be pursued? Can development-assistance efforts be given new focus? What orientation must we seek for the evolution of our relations with the developing-country groups? Do our institutional frameworks operate to further our objectives in these areas?

First, on energy. We were unsuccessful at CIEC in achieving agreement on a restricted, representative body of industrialized Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and oil-importing developing countries to continue the energy "dialogue". International discussion of energy issues will inevitably be pursued in some forum, not least because of CIEC's International Energy Co-operation and Development Program. Bilateral contacts will continue to be of prime importance and we must not forget the contribution CIEC has made to strengthening these contacts. The shape we give to the multilateral implementation of the program is now "key".

There are some indications that the OPEC could be responsive to some form of increased producer-consumer contact through the International Energy Agency. This is an option worth investigating.

It also seems likely that follow-up on energy issues will be discussed at the resumed United Nations General Assembly this autumn. There are two kinds of risk inherent in increased energy activity in the UN system. A number of existing specialized agencies, already involved in energy work, may attempt to increase this dimension to the point of fragmentation, more cost and less effectiveness. There is the Interna-

tional Atomic Energy Agency, whose safeguards capabilities Canada would not wish to see diminished or diluted. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the UN Centre for Natural Resources and even the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which has been providing technical assistance in energy for some years, also come to mind. It might therefore be desirable to centralize UN energy activities in a single institution, but we must carefully consider whether we want an entirely new specialized agency for energy. I think that our common efforts at this stage should be concentrated on avoiding either of these extremes.

Energy supply/demand/price issues could also be reviewed in a limited membership international forum, such as the World Bank. Perhaps the Energy Consultative Group idea investigated by the industrialized countries at the CIEC could be further explored in connection with the Bank's future increased energy development investment agreed to in the CIEC. The possible involvement of the developing countries, including of course OPEC, in the energy research and development activities of the IEA, may present a similar opportunity. To our mind, these types of operation have more appeal.

Assistance to development

Next, on the future focus for assistance to development, the developing countries in the CIEC reaffirmed their primary responsibility for promoting their own development. We achieved rather less success, however, in mobilizing support for the idea of meeting basic human needs. We must ensure that the benefits of development – indeed the focus of development-assistance programs – should be concentrated, to an increasing extent, on the poorest sectors of the developing countries. It is now Canadian policy to direct our assistance to programs which will benefit the poorest countries and within these countries the most disadvantaged. I know that many other countries around this table share this objective. We might well direct our common energies to an effort to secure wider allegiance to this principle, especially among the developing countries. We might also evaluate together the types and quality of program which have best served this need.

Re-examine ties

On the matter of our general relations with the developing countries, I believe that our Secretary-General has usefully indicated the need to re-examine our ties with these countries. Particularly, as the most industrialized tier advances, and as the oil producers continue to accumulate revenues, there will be increasing need to re-examine developed country links with these groups. These changes are of course, already being reflected in bilateral relationships, but there may well be a need to consolidate new forms on the multilateral plane.

This will not be an instant or easy process. Full association with the OECD countries by individual developing states is yet distant. There will be problems of definitions and categories. There will be resistance to the simple fact that the more advanced of the developing countries cannot, at the same time, receive developing countries' benefits and yet be full participants in the councils of the industrialized world.

The OECD countries must nevertheless maintain and increase the momentum of developing countries' integration in the international economic system. In this process, we must encourage greater less-developed countries responsibilities. The problems of the international system are enormous – continuing high rates of inflation, untenable levels of unemployment, severe balance-of-payments distortion, the dangers of resorting to protectionist trade measures, energy deficiencies, the role of nuclear energy, and in that context, the related question of how to ensure the attainment of our goal of preventing the further proliferation of nuclear weapons. The pursuit of the "dialogue" with the developing countries must in the real world reflect these concerns.

It is a long road and the frustrations are many. But there are no real options other than pushing toward a better share for the developing countries. We in Canada are proud of our record on development issues and were glad to contribute to the management and, I hope, the success of the CIEC. We will continue to contribute and pledge our efforts to the continuation of the battle against poverty, hunger and ignorance.

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