

that trade can have for developed and developing countries are not always evident to the unemployed automotive or textile worker, although they can be very obvious for a higher-paid worker producing aircraft or high technology products for export. But in these days of severe global economic difficulties, a return to the attitudes and policies of half a century ago would serve none of us well.

It is for these fundamental reasons that Canada has been concerned not only to enhance the development prospects of developing countries and strengthen the functioning of international institutions, but also to play an active role in the negotiation of the whole range of issues that constitute the North-South dialogue. And I believe Canada has a unique role to play.

Our economy is at once industrialized and resource-based; sophisticated, yet in some ways underdeveloped. Thus we share many of the perspectives of our industrialized partners. At the same time, our position as a major exporter of raw materials and net importer of capital and technology is similar to the situation of many developing countries. Canada has been characterized both as the world's smallest industrialized country and as its largest developing country. Appreciating the real concerns and interests of both groups, Canada has thus often found itself playing an "honest broker" role in multilateral negotiations. We have consistently sought to stimulate movement and to conciliate the conflicting views of industrialized and developing countries.

Our capacity to play this "bridge-building" role between countries of the North and South has also been enhanced by our political ties. We are a member of the industrialized West with strong ties to the United States, Europe, and Japan. We participate in the annual Economic Summits of the major industrialized countries. Yet we are a middle power with membership in the OECD and the "Likeminded" group of Western nations which share common concerns about developments in the Third World.

We also have ties to developing countries in all parts of the world. Given our lack of a colonialist past and of geo-political ambitions, developing countries are sometimes less suspicious of Canadian motives than they may be of those of some other industrialized countries. Moreover, a number of associations, particularly the Commonwealth and La Francophonie, have provided us with unique windows on the concerns of developing countries.