

Canada at the Summits

When things seem to change, they often do.

When the heads of government of the seven largest market economy countries meet in Ottawa in July for the Seventh Economic Summit, they will again discuss development, trade, energy, unemployment, growth, inflation and world politics and, once more, they will deal with new realities. The trade surpluses of many industrial nations have disappeared and inflation rates have gone up as GNP growth rates have gone down. Energy, once abundant and cheap, is now high priced.

Realities have been changing rapidly for more than thirty years. At the end of World War II the levels of power and production seemed clearly defined. The United States, the one super power, had one great military rival, the Soviet Union. The economic foundations of Europe had been disrupted, and Great Britain was triumphant but threadbare; Japan and Germany were defeated and China assumed to be in chaos. The empires founded by the great powers of Europe were dissolving, and there were upheavals in Korea and Indochina. There was also the majority of the world, the poor, who, it was taken for granted, would always be with us.

Canada, physically unscathed, was a middle power with its economy intact and expanding, committed to playing a positive international role.

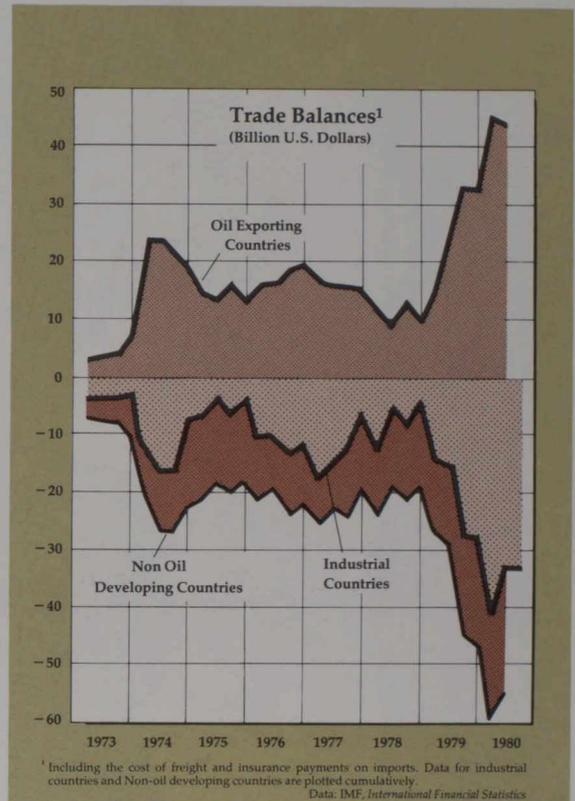
Today there are two super military powers, but the prerogatives and opportunities of power are not the same. The devastated have recovered. The United States is still the No. 1 economic power, but it has a peer in the European Community, and Japan has become a model of production.

The world is richer and more crowded, but in one vital respect the past is still with us—most of the wealth is concentrated in the northern part of the globe, while most of the people are in the south.

Today no one nation can act alone, and there are many conflicting voices in the planning of the world's economy: the West, the East, the rich, the growing numbers of the poor, and the multinational corporations. Each, to some degree, is dependent on the rest.

Canada is still prosperous and still committed to its positive and active role in the world. It is still sometimes referred to as a middle power, but now power is harder to define and the middle a point more difficult to fix.

In Ottawa in July the seven largest industrial nations with free market economies will once more attempt to resolve old and new problems and to build new bridges. In this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI we consider the coming Economic Summit and the world we live in.



This Year at Ottawa

The heads of government of the United States, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, France, Great Britain, Italy and Canada will meet at the Seventh Economic Summit in Ottawa, July 20 to 21. The European Community will be represented as well. The seven countries together account for around half of world trade, for about four-fifths of the industrial countries' output and over half of the world's output. Meetings will be held in the East Block of Parliament and at Montebello, Quebec, a resort forty miles east of Ottawa.

Prime Minister Trudeau, this year's host, has suggested certain procedural reforms. He would prefer smaller gatherings and shorter communiqués at the end of the sessions.

"We have got to use the time of the leaders of the Western nations better to solve at least in part problems that we have not been able to come to grips with before. I am particularly thinking of some North-South questions."