

direct interference by the superpowers, but also free from intervention or interference from other Third World nations seeking to impose one or another political ideology or form of government.

Secondly, the degree to which the industrialized nations are prepared to enter into open bargaining with them in global negotiations. This will call for an understanding of the plight of the developing world on the part of the industrialized nations and, on the part of the Third World, an abandonment of inflexible positions and bloc voting patterns. A precursor of how we are all likely to succeed in this may well be the outcome of the North/South Summit in Mexico in October.

The third indicator — one which will no doubt be watched vigilantly by the developing nations — will be the evolution of more open trading patterns. Perhaps more than any other single step, the commitment to more open trading policies will require an act of political will by the industrialized countries. In some cases it will call for revised industrial strategies, large-scale technology transfer and more orderly marketing arrangements.

The fourth, but by no means last of the indicators, will be the strength of will shown by the Western nations to live up to their commitments to higher levels of official development assistance. For our part, we are aiming at a level of 0.7 of 1 per cent of gross national product by the end of the 1980s, and we hope that other industrialized countries will at least do as well.

No doubt the Third World will keep a watchful eye not on statements and sympathy expressed by the West, but on the commitments we make and the efforts we invest in keeping these commitments.

Steps in the  
right direction

In summary, I am optimistic — perhaps reservedly so, but optimistic nevertheless — that progress is on the horizon. It would be naive to suppose that a new world economic order will emerge in a few short years. Recognition of mega-problems is always slow, even when our own welfare hangs on their resolution. In the quest for an accelerated and more just international development thrust, it is probably most realistic to expect not a single, giant step, but many determined steps — all headed in the same direction.

No doubt those directions and steps will be the substance of your considerations throughout this conference. I wish you well in those discussions, if for no other reason than that all of us must sharpen our comprehension of the complex issues that surround international development, and heighten the sensitivity of people everywhere — but particularly in the industrialized countries — to the urgent need to make a beginning. We must convince our own societies that there are no longer far-off lands, but that, in the words of Edmund Burke, "Whenever our neighbour's house is on fire, it cannot be amiss for the engines to play a little on our own."