

On the other hand, I sincerely hope that the increasing diversification among the economies of the developing countries enables us to break away from the harmful monolithic ideologies that tainted North-South dialogue during previous decades. This diversification requires developed countries to tailor their responses to the specific needs and requirements of the countries involved. The very nature of assistance policies will thus be transformed. We must tailor our assistance to the level of development of recipient countries while continuing to give least developed countries the benefit of critical food aid and humanitarian assistance. Our efforts must increasingly support adjustment programs ultimately designed to achieve true economic co-operation.

In this regard, we cannot help but express satisfaction with the growing acceptance by developing countries of their responsibility for their own growth and their realization that foreign assistance is only assistance, no matter how indispensable it may be. Conscious of the new imperatives of the international economy, most of these countries have courageously agreed to implement demanding structural adjustment programs. This new awareness enables us to speak of a new partnership, related to the interdependence among our economies, rather than of the former confrontation between North and South.

But this requires us to think in new ways. We must get out of the rut of traditional foreign assistance. We must think in more global terms and tie assistance, debt handling, the opening up of international trade, economic reform and the strengthening of the private sector in developing economies to efforts to make these countries an integral part of the global economic system. We must clearly realize that the phenomenon of interdependence we are continually witnessing will impose new constraints -- especially if multilateral trade negotiations are successfully concluded -- which will open up markets to fiercer competition largely based on mastery of new technology.

The economic resolution is a coherent whole with a clear message: partnership means dialogue; dialogue means support; support means joint and complementary efforts. This is not so much a matter of the degree of assistance and dependence as of global economic co-operation affecting trade policies, access to markets, technology transfer, financial balances, debt, environmental co-operation and the cost of raw material -- in short, a genuine effort to achieve mutually beneficial relations among equals.