



# Statements and Speeches

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## CURRENT ISSUES OF CONCERN TO CANADA AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

A Statement by the Honourable Donald C. Jamieson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the House of Commons on December 19, 1977.

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In a single speech or in one debate it is not possible to cover all aspects of international affairs. I have decided this afternoon to confine most of my remarks to those issues in the international realm that impact most directly upon the people of Canada, and also those that have caused the greatest amount of concern in recent months. Meeting both of these criteria, very obviously, is the question of the world economy and the new economic order, as it has come to be called, throughout the international scene.

Some weeks ago, I gave the House a rather comprehensive report on the various activities taking place in such organizations as the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and a number of similar agencies. Therefore, it is not my intention today to deal with these in any great detail. However, by way of recapitulation, I should like to refer briefly to three subjects I am sure will be touched upon by other speakers from both sides as this important debate proceeds.

### Outcome of London summit conference

First, I refer to the summit conference of last May, in London, and the events that have flowed from it. Among those are the "North-South Dialogue", or the search for the new economic order, as well as the multilateral tariff negotiations (MTN). All of these — and particularly the focus that was brought to them by the summit — illustrated once again the interdependence of the world and the growing necessity for us to consult with one another, not only in the developed world but also with the Third World. This is necessary if we are to find solutions for what are generally described as basic structural changes in the world economic system.

There is now general agreement, given the precarious nature of the economic structure at the present time, that resolutions of a satisfactory nature will not be found unless we recognize that old solutions imposed on new circumstances will be inadequate. Therefore, the search is on in a wide range of forums in order to determine how we must approach these new developments.

In the case of the summit, there was general agreement that we must resist what are obviously the growing forces of protectionism. Canada, more than any other developed country, recognizes that there is a fine line we must follow between ensuring that existing industries and existing sources of employment are reasonably protected, while at the same time doing those things necessary to ease the general