

of lives, but the experience of this crisis has also identified longer-term challenges.

Relief is not enough. Action for permanent development -- in partnership with the African nations -- is essential. African governments must resolve to give a priority to the agricultural sector and to unleash the productive forces in their own societies. This effort must be matched by a real and sustained commitment by developed nations and indeed the entire international community. The African crisis will not end until the valiant efforts to relieve the tragedy of today are buttressed by a sustained commitment to building the Africa of tomorrow.

The heavy external debt, which afflicts so many countries, is another crippling burden in the developing world. Some progress has been achieved in dealing with the debt situation, thanks to cooperation among creditor governments, debtor countries, commercial banks, and international institutions. The strategy of adjustment, financing, and rescheduling has demonstrated an impressive flexibility in helping debtors. But more adaptation is needed to meet the special needs of debtor nations.

Deliberations in the UN help in fostering a better understanding of these economic problems and further the activities of various international institutions dealing with them. The IMF and the World Bank have played a key role in this regard. We should ensure that they can and will continue to do so, taking due account of the particular problems facing individual states. The strains facing the multilateral economic system and its leading institutions must be dealt with. Bilateral relations between countries on the one hand, and the multilateral system on the other, ought to be mutually complementary and reinforcing.

Similarly, protectionism, which threatens the prosperity of developed and developing countries alike, must be resisted. The industrialized countries must keep our markets open to Third World products if the developing countries are to maintain the export earnings necessary to service their external debt and to improve living standards. All of us will lose if our borders close. All therefore have an important stake in ensuring that the multilateral trading system remains open and healthy. That is why Canada has been at the forefront in calling for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations -- and why we have been working to liberalize trade and resist protectionism in many other ways.

By joining in the preparations for a new trade round now, the developing countries can be joint architects of a revitalized GATT system. Canada is anxious to work with the