

The theme of your Conference is North meets South: Canada and Latin America. I welcome this opportunity to participate, and I endorse fully your decision to situate Canada's relations in the broader context of North meeting South.

Interdependence is a word that seems to go in and out of fashion. However the reality of interdependence is very fresh in my mind. Last weekend, I participated with the Prime Minister in the Williamsburg summit. On Tuesday and Wednesday, I met with the Secretary General of the United Nations, Senor Perez de Cuellar. In both cases, the interdependence of North and South occupied a prominent place. Economic recovery, trade, foreign debt, and aid -- all of these fit very directly into the economic picture of developed and developing countries, of Canada and Latin America.

The discussions in New York and Williamsburg have also contributed to my assessment of some of the main political issues raised by your conference, in particular the turmoil in Central America. At Williamsburg, I had the opportunity to continue my discussions with Secretary Shultz and to exchange views with the foreign ministers of the other five summit countries. In New York, I had the benefit of the Secretary General's views. Mr. de Cuellar is, I believe, one of the most enlightened and dynamic Latin Americans to have assumed a major role on the wider