

Strategy for international development

The special session reached a consensus on the IDS which was subsequently adopted by consensus by the thirty fifth session of the UN General Assembly in December 1980. Negotiation of the IDS was difficult and protracted. The 'Group of 77' of developing countries placed emphasis on the symbolic importance of agreement by developed countries on time-bound targets for official development assistance expressed in terms of percentage of their GNP. The agreed upon document includes a preamble, a section on goals and objectives, a section on policy measures and provisions for a review and appraisal mechanism. Individual chapters cover international trade, industrialization, food and agriculture, financial resources for development, international monetary and financial issues, technical co-operation, science and technology for development, energy, transport, economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, special categories of countries, environment, human settlements, disaster relief and social development. Canada fully supports the Strategy as well as the goals, objectives and policy measures it contains.

Global negotiations

Unfortunately, the UN special session was unable to fulfil the second part of its mandate: the launching of global negotiations. In spite of three preparatory meetings of the Committee of the Whole and three weeks of intensive negotiations during the special session itself, agreement could not be reached on the agenda and on the actual procedures to be utilized during the global negotiations. The fundamental problem lay in the respective roles to be played in the negotiations by the existing international forums and by the proposed central body, or conference, for the global negotiations. Developing countries argued for a broad mandate for the central forum while developed Western countries sought to provide more specific protection for the mandates of existing institutions such as the IMF and GATT. Three developed countries were unable to

support a consensus text on procedures for the global negotiations, and the UN special session remitted the issue to the regular session of the General Assembly in the autumn. Despite extensive discussions on both procedures and an agenda in an informal "Group of friends" of the President, the General Assembly was again unable to reach agreement and authorized the President to continue informal consultations in the new year.

Canada played an active role in efforts to achieve consensus on the launching of the global negotiations. Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations was elected chairman of the *Ad hoc* Committee of the UN Special Session, one of the key negotiating groups on the global negotiations, and Canada participated actively in the President's "Group of friends" at the regular session. Canada supported the main texts on procedures under consideration and was hopeful that satisfactory compromises could be reached on the agenda.

North-South Summit

Based on the recommendation of the Brandt Commission report, President Lopez Portillo of Mexico and Chancellor Kreisky of Austria undertook an initiative in May 1980 for a North-South Summit comprising some 22 heads of government from developed and developing countries to give political impetus to the dialogue. From the outset, Canada gave strong support to this initiative as a means to facilitate frank, informal discussion of North-South issues at a high level and to give impetus to the search for pragmatic solutions to pressing international problems. In the wake of the impasse on the global negotiations at the UN special session, momentum for the Summit increased. The Secretary of State for External Affairs participated as a member of a group of 11 foreign ministers who met in Vienna November 7-8, 1980 to discuss preparations for the Summit including the timing, selection of participants, format and agenda. (The Summit is now expected to take place in Cancun, Mexico, in the autumn of 1981.)