

At the same time, we attach major importance to bilateral relations, adapted in each case to the specificity of each country. Our desire for closer relations with Colombia is an expression of our belief that the parallels in our development, the common values that we share and the resultant empathy that we have for each other has created a potential for closer collaboration that we should exploit. We are interested in your views on a variety of questions of international relations. In your biography of President Rafael Nunez, Excellency, you place great emphasis on the need for the governors and the governed to recognize the importance not only of rights but also of responsibilities. It seems to me that Colombian foreign policy reflects this attitude in its moderate, thoughtful and balanced approach to the great international issues of the day, such as inter-American relations, the North/South Dialogue, and the Law of the Sea. We look upon Colombia because of its democratic traditions as one of our major interlocutors as we become more progressively involved in the affairs of the hemisphere. We are glad of an opportunity to compare views with you on the evolution of the OAS and the Andean Pact, and the development of SELA.

Outside the framework of the western hemisphere and in the further context of the world at large, we see in you a country that is very much a part of the west, but one whose pattern of development allows it to understand the aspirations of the third world. We too are in a good position to appreciate the aims of the developing countries, because we depend for much of our livelihood on the export of commodities. At the same time, we are also dependent on the import of other commodities, such as petroleum and tropical products, thus, we can understand the need for having commodity arrangements that meet the needs of the consuming, as well as of the producing countries. As the co-chairman for the industrialized nations at the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC), we have been working closely with Sr. Perez Guerrero of Venezuela to bridge the gap that at present separates the developed from the developing countries.

At the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva, we have also worked to help the resource exporting countries with our proposal of a complementary negotiating technique known as the "sector approach". Our proposal is designed to provide better opportunities for these countries to produce and market abroad both highly processed commodities, as well as raw materials and, in this way, to achieve a higher degree of industrialization.

We have had development cooperation with Colombia since we first began our bilateral assistance programmes in Latin America in 1972. It is here that we have one of our largest programmes in the region. The International Development Research Council of Canada has its Latin American headquarters in Bogota. It has