

discussions in commodity councils leading up to UNCTAD IV in Nairobi, the continuing Multilateral Trade Negotiations under the GATT, and discussions of international financial and monetary issues at the IMF. In each of these fora we shall be putting forward positions which reflect Canada's economic interests and our desire to strengthen co-operation with developing countries. The Conference on International Economic Co-operation will hold a Ministerial Session in December. At that Meeting the energy question will be considered in relation to other economic issues of importance to developing countries.

Just as the Canadian International Development Board under the Chairmanship of Mr. Gérin-Lajoie advises me on development assistance matters, the Interdepartmental Committee on Economic Relations with Developing Countries under the Chairmanship of Mr. Robinson advises me on the broader multi-dimensional issues which we are continuing to deal with. I wish to stress the interdepartmental nature of the Government's consideration of these issues.

Thus through our aid programme and through other measures of co-operation with developing countries we are seeking ways of lessening disparities between developed and developing countries. In my view, bringing rich and poor close together, finding ways to lessen these great disparities, is one of the fundamental tasks in the field of international relations today. It is crucial for global stability and for the future of human civilization. I believe that Canada has the ability to maintain and increase its efforts to confront these problems despite the sacrifices which will be required in our domestic fight against inflation. Aid programmes are easy targets in times of economic stress. Support for our programme must be founded upon a broad understanding by Canadians of the critical problems facing the community of nations and the disastrous results which would follow any reduction of effort by industrialized nations because of economic problems at home.

The importance of broadly-based national support for our programmes and policies aimed at assisting developing countries cannot be over-emphasized. Canadians must be made more aware of the issues involved in our relations with developing countries. Discussion in this Sub-committee and efforts by each of you to air these questions with the