

be helpful. We must ensure that Canada itself shows the way by being willing to make concrete contributions. But we should be more cautious in our expectations than we have been so far in public statements and official documents about what the approach may achieve.

There are several reasons to keep our fingers crossed. The Informal Consultations themselves do not have an assured future, particularly as European integration intensifies; some of the individual measures which may be decided on in the context of the approach may be of only limited effectiveness in checking flows in the shorter term, and may therefore undermine the interest of participants; there will be little willingness to take costly major aid or trade initiatives commensurate with the scale of the migration problem;⁴ success in one small area may be only temporary, or divert the source of flows to a neighbour; important source countries or areas (such as North Africa, Zaïre, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, Haïti, Yugoslavia) are not covered, and yet if they are added in future, or large new sources suddenly emerge, intellectual and financial resources of participants may be spread too thin to have any real effect. There is also the problem that concentration on sources of migrants to the "North" leaves out of account the plight of the much larger numbers which move within the developing world. For this reason, and the need to avoid the impression that a fortress of developed countries against the "South" is being constructed, it will be very important to try to retain UNHCR involvement, but as noted above, there is a good deal of hesitancy within the UNHCR about the Consultations.

C. Other Measures

In parallel with such progress as may be made in the Informal Consultations on the development-migration-population link in specific countries, we should propose a major discussion of this matter in the next high-level DAC meeting, not only to sensitize other participants generally, but also to promote the long-term analytical study by the OECD proposed by the Consultations Secretariat. This year we are proposing a more sustained dialogue between the DAC and the OECD's Environment Committee, and the DAC and the OECD's Comité des échanges; of equal importance, but not yet suggested by Canada, would be DAC dialogue with the Working Party on Migration, to prepare the way for the general discussion proposed above. A springboard for this DAC discussion could be the stress at the last high-level meeting, in December, on "l'impératif de la cohérence des politiques principalement au chapitre de la dette, du commerce international, de la migration, et de l'environnement",⁵ even if the OECD Secretariat is not yet well staffed to advance the "policy coherence" idea. But before such discussion--and before matters proceed much further on "root causes" within the Informal Consultations--we must have clarified our own thinking on the basics, as emphasized earlier.

We should perhaps try to involve officials of the IOM somewhat more in the international consideration of migration issues, even though it is basically an operational agency with limited resources for policy development. It is already represented at