

Hence, we had better now agree politically that there is one political commitment of overriding importance we need to take - that there will be a sane, equitable, and productive future. We need political recognition that we cannot continue as we are doing now.

For this recognition to take effect at the national level, we need not only public support in the developed countries, but also international understandings among national political leaders.

In Canada, we have perhaps only recently really recognized the vital role in this process of the public itself. It is not elite opinion, at round tables of experts, where we most need to work, but at the community level, in town halls, where the bulk of the population is centred. I accept this as a task of political leadership nationally. But it is one where success will be much more easily obtained if there are political understandings internationally.

Last week I attended a meeting in Vienna of foreign ministers who gathered to determine if North/South Summit meetings of political leaders of various countries can assist the political process I am speaking of. To see if such meetings could vitalize the global negotiating process. We concluded they could. Such a Summit meeting will be held early June. As the idea for a North/South Summit in fact originated with the North/South Round Table, I congratulate you on its acceptance.

Late in the summer, the leaders of the principal industrialized countries will meet, here in Ottawa, with an agenda which will emphasize the role of their countries in the global power-sharing process.

In September, the Commonwealth Heads of Government will meet in Australia.

These meetings, and others, will give international political leadership the chances in 1981 to come to terms with the broad political sweep of North/South and global issues. It is our hope that they will permit political leaders to understand each other, and the nature of the challenge the future represents, in a way not available at international negotiating meetings of a more formal, conventional character. But a main purpose will be to encourage progress on the international agenda, and notably in the Global Negotiations themselves.