

Some of the proposals advanced by developing countries under these headings pose obvious difficulties. Not all have common support, for the interests of developing countries are not identical. It is misleading simply to equate exporter and developing-country interests. Nor can we ignore the fact that consumer and producer interests are related.

Much has been done internationally to tackle these problems of the developing world. The Generalized System of Tariff Preferences, the revision of quotas in the International Monetary Fund..., the affirmation in the Tokyo Declaration that additional benefits for developing countries would be sought in the multilateral trade negotiations are a few cases in point.

Moreover, in Canada almost all primary commodities, whether mineral or agricultural, enter our market free of duty. Indeed, 75 per cent of all developing-country exports to Canada bear no import duty.

We have initiated a review of Canadian policies that affect our economic relations with developing countries. We want to see -- as the international trade and payments system undergoes changes -- what additional measures are appropriate to ensure that developing countries are able to derive greater advantage from international trade, investment and finance. We must seek out areas where we can co-operate to increase their rate of economic growth and reduce their vulnerability to market forces. We, too, would benefit from such co-operation. The developing countries are important to us as partners in an interdependent world. But I should be less than frank if I left the impression that I expect Canada to reverse its international economic policies tomorrow. These policies centre on our relations with our major trading partners. Canadian industry and labour depend for their prosperity on these partners. Whatever changes we make -- and I should emphasize that there may be some difficult choices to make -- must take into account these traditional ties.

Our success in this effort depends upon the vigour of the world economy. There is no more urgent development issue. When production and demand falter, all of us, developed and developing, suffer. Our aim in seeking better methods of co-operation is also to encourage steady economic growth for all countries.

United Nations ...It is a truism that the United Nations reflects the concerns of governments and peoples and that, because every member of the General Assembly has equal rights in that body, it is the concerns of the majority of members that tend to dominate the proceedings.