

fair; it must also be seen to be fair if it is to function effectively.

In the light of these national interests, the Canadian Government has elaborated two underlying principles to govern our approach to North-South issues. The first is the Canadian commitment to social justice. In a shrinking world, we have had to broaden the definition of who is our "neighbour". With 800 million people living in absolute poverty, we cannot turn a blind eye to the plight of others, regardless of national boundaries or the ideologies that may divide us. Canadians have come to expect that a moral dimension be reflected in their country's foreign policy. Thus one of the well-springs of Canada's development assistance program is a straightforwardly humanitarian concern for the welfare of the poorest and the dispossessed on "spaceship earth".

But it is not simply a question of social justice. We have come to realize that, in an increasingly interdependent world, it is in the mutual self-interest of all nations to ensure that the problems of developing countries are effectively addressed. This is the second of our two guiding principles.

I do not need to elaborate before this group the extent of global economic interdependence. All of us in this room are only too conscious of the importance of developing countries to Western economies as well as, of course, the inverse. Even for the United States, whose economy has essentially been driven by domestic rather than international markets, the acceleration of interdependence among nations for goods and services has had the effect of eroding the relative isolation of the US economy. By 1979, in fact, one American worker in 20 was employed in production of exports destined specifically for the Third World.

Interdependence is thus no longer an option - even for a superpower such as the United States - and that is why I was particularly disappointed by the American decision not to sign the Law of the Sea Treaty. Interdependence is in fact a condition of international life today. The challenge for all Governments - now more than ever - is therefore to summon the courage and wisdom to avoid short-sighted assertions of national interest which have a "beggar thy neighbour" effect.

As a Member of Parliament for a riding which depends upon automotive production, however, I can well appreciate the real dilemmas involved. The mutual gains