

B. Overcoming Some Myths

- Countries crushed by debt cannot trade more with us or contribute to a healthy global environment. The Sub-Committee is confident that Canadians will support strong actions by their government when they are able to understand those actions, and the mutual interests served by them, in light of the gravity and urgency of the international debt situation.
- Immediate action on the debt is imperative. But it must be part of an overall agenda for action on North-South issues—an agenda which aims to put an end to the unacceptable consequences of mass poverty on the threshold of the third millenium. (p. 17)

C. Towards a Continuing Agenda for Action

- There are many things that we will not be able to fully anticipate or sufficiently explore in this report. A continuing political process is therefore needed to review and update Canadian initiatives on the North-South agenda. Accordingly, as one of our first recommendations, we urge the government to establish a high-level advisory task force on international debt and adjustment, to include representatives from government, business, the NGO and academic communities, and from the Third World. In addition to providing expert monitoring of progress on the Sub-Committee's recommendations, such a body should be an ongoing source of ideas for future Canadian action. To ensure continued parliamentary input, we recommend that the task force report its findings at least annually to this Committee. (p. 18)

IV. LIFTING THE BURDEN OF DEBT AND STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT: A FRAMEWORK FOR CANADIAN POLICY IN THE 1990s

A. The Debate over Adjustment and "Conditionality"

- The Sub-Committee does not endorse any single diagnosis of, or prescription for, all of the ills of debtor countries in the developing world. Probably elements of more than one approach will be needed, adapted to the particular situation of each country. But we have heard enough to be convinced that the status quo is not acceptable. And we believe that despite, or perhaps because of, the complexities of the cases, there ought to be some strong common principles guiding Canadian policy. (p. 23)