

tion brought few countries into the Soviet orbit — and these only for short periods of time. In addition, Cuba's efforts within the Non-Aligned Movement have only increased Third World suspicions of Soviet motives, particularly since the invasion of Afghanistan. In short, I believe that few Third World nations, having attained independence from Western colonial powers, are prepared to subject themselves ideologically to another power, especially the Soviet Union.

Ottawa Summit consensus

Those of you familiar with the "Declaration of the Ottawa Summit" may have a variety of views about how well the heads of government and others involved in that process met the concerns of the developing nations. And no doubt some of those views will be elaborated in the course of this conference. From my own vantage point, I believe the Summit consensus has gone a long way in identifying common ground with at least some of the principles that have been advanced by Canada for some years. For example:

The Summit quite explicitly supported the "stability, independence and genuine non-alignment of developing countries". This implicitly supports the immunization of the Third World from East/West confrontations. Explicitly, it is a commitment to non-interference where there is genuine non-alignment.

Beyond this, however, I believe that one very positive result of the Summit was an agreement to resume preparations for global negotiations. The significance of this commitment should not be underestimated, since in essence it represents — for some Summit partners at least — a return to a position abandoned when the process broke down last fall.

The declaration also committed the Summit partners to maintaining substantial and, in many cases, growing levels of official development assistance, as well as to direct the major portion of their aid to poorer countries.

Perhaps equally important to the developing world was the Ottawa Summit's agreement to resist protectionist pressures. While this commitment undoubtedly was designed to obviate the problems of inflation and unemployment which are aggravated by protectionism in industrialized countries, adherence to this principle can undoubtedly be a primary benefit to the developing world where access to markets remains a vital concern.

Taken together, these various developments — agreement among the Western industrial nations about the importance of respecting the independent and non-aligned status of developing countries, and the recognition that they must be assisted to figure more prominently and advantageously in the operation of the world economy — I believe these are hopeful signs for significant movement in international development. But ultimately, any successes in bridging the gap will not come from declarations. I suggest the most significant indicators of real progress in working towards meeting the aspirations of the Third World could be the following:

Progress indi- cators

First, the degree to which Third World countries are permitted to remain isolated from East/West confrontations. This will require that they be left free not only from