

bodies over a period of years — from UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) and the Conference on International Economic Co-operation in Paris to UN plans for global negotiations and the Summit meeting at Cancun. Now a further UNCTAD meeting is pending.

It is not, of course, the forum that is crucial, but the commitment to work together in order to reduce inequities and foster economic growth — to bring justice to a world where economic dislocations strike hardest at the poorest and most vulnerable. That commitment must remain high on our agenda for the Eighties.

For the recovery of the world economy cannot be realized without co-operation in an inter-dependent world. Demand in developing countries is an important engine of industrial growth. Debt and financing problems are a continuing obstacle to trade. Controlling inflation is necessary to stimulate investment and industrial growth. And commodity producers such as Nigeria and Canada must look to renewed vigour in their export markets.

Selfish beggar-thy-neighbour policies only afford temporary relief. They increase inequities and weaken our capacity to work together. They multiply the distress of the poorest. It is unrealistic to expect the poor and the underprivileged to acquiesce in measures which may bring prosperity to others but not to them.

I should like to put these concerns in a particular perspective. We all know that funds available for concessional assistance from Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries have not increased sufficiently to meet the urgent requirements of international development during the past two years. Neither have the amounts available from capital-surplus Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Canada, for its part, remains committed to reaching a target of 0.5 per cent of gross national product by 1985. We shall make our best efforts to reach 0.7 per cent by 1990. Despite domestic difficulties our aid is growing in real terms.

Last year we contributed \$1.3 billion to assist developing countries. More than half was untied. One-third of the program was devoted to multilateral assistance. More than 70 per cent went to the less advanced developing countries.

So far as Africa is concerned, we provided bilateral assistance amounting to \$340 million, almost half of our total bilateral assistance. By way of comparison our imports and exports stood at \$1.2 and \$1.5 billion respectively. I hope both will continue to grow. For it is not easy to provide growing amounts of assistance at a time of high unemployment in Canada, when we have much spare capacity in our own economy. You may be sure we shall persist, but those who support development co-operation need all the backing they can get.

Let me note, as well, that we have 22 diplomatic posts in Africa. Half of them have been opened during the past 15 years. We were early supporters of the African Development Fund and we have been happy