

economic problems will not always be globalized ones. The progress made at the high-level meeting of developing countries in Caracas last May is a case in point. Relations with developing countries were the major focus of a number of high-level consultations among industrialized countries — in particular the June ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Ottawa Summit. I want to take this opportunity to briefly report to the Assembly on the latter meeting.

Ottawa Summit

The Summit devoted considerable time to the issue of economic relations between developed and developing countries and, in the communiqué, the leaders agreed on a joint statement reflecting these discussions. They underlined an appreciation of the magnitude of the problems and a common readiness to help respond to them. Overall, the message to our developing-country partners signalled the following:

- respect for independence and support for genuine non-alignment;
- commitment to co-operate in a spirit of mutual interest and interdependence;
- support for closer integration of developing countries into the international economic system, as well as support for their efforts to promote development within the framework of their own social values and traditions.

Moreover, we sought at the Summit to address the key problems of energy, food, trade and finance in a positive and constructive way. We pledged to maintain substantial and, in many cases, growing levels of official development assistance, the major portion of which will be directed to poorer countries. Of signal importance was our affirmation at the Summit to participate in preparations for a process of global negotiations. It has been encouraging to me that both developed and developing countries have expressed their appreciation of the results of the Ottawa Summit.

Another important initiative in North-South relations this year will be the Summit at Cancun. We hope that the Cancun Summit will foster understanding of the key North-South issues and give political impetus to their resolution in whatever fora may be appropriate. We do not see the Summit as a substitute for global negotiations — no non-universal forum can be. But we do see it as a catalyst for them. And while the nature of the North-South Summit precludes participation by all of the interested parties, we welcome the link with the United Nations as represented by the presence at Cancun of Secretary-General Waldheim.

While admitting the value of summits, however, universally-determined multilateral agreements remain fundamental to our search for effective solutions to global problems. For this reason, a large degree of consensus has been reached on the launching of global negotiations. While admitting that compromise on all sides will be necessary in that process, I believe there is new willingness to face this challenge. Preparatory discussions will resume during this session, and I pledge Canada's determination to work for a successful outcome.

Task force on North-South relations

Within Canada during the past year, we have taken a number of steps to enable us to play a more active and constructive role in international co-operation in these vital areas. A Parliamentary Task Force on North-South Relations tabled a major and
