

Canada has been encouraged that one of the mandates calls for the preparation of proposals for confidence-building measures. The least the world can expect of us is that, in our search for greater security, we define measures to enhance confidence and to lessen the risk of military surprise or miscalculation.

In its discussion of economic co-operation, the conference should have regard to the wider context of multilateral trade negotiations and discussions on monetary reform taking place elsewhere. This conference should not, in our view, engage in negotiations on these matters. It will, however, be a place where we can give support to the idea of removing barriers to trade, which can, in turn, facilitate other forms of co-operation and exchange. Canada has always encouraged trading nations to be outward-looking and to avoid discrimination in trading matters. It will continue to urge all countries, and particularly the states participating in this conference, to approach trading relations not only among themselves but with the rest of the world in this spirit.

As we seek to improve our relations in the economic, technological and environmental fields, we should not forget our responsibility to the developing countries. As we advocate action and co-operation that would result in increases in the wealth and welfare of our peoples, we should bear in mind the need to extend these economic benefits to those countries in the world less well endowed. Fortunately, there is no inherent contradiction between these two objectives. They are complementary, not competitive.

For the future, it is our view that it would be inadvisable, especially in the field of economics, were the conference to try to duplicate the work of existing bodies. There are already organizations competent to deal with matters falling within this field and they should be used to the maximum. Certain aspects of our economic relations may not fall neatly within the ambit of one or other of these institutions, and it may prove necessary to revitalize other organizations already in possession of a great deal of relevant experience to fill the gaps. I have in mind in particular the Economic Commission for Europe. Canada is seeking full membership so that we may play our full part in any tasks the conference may consider appropriate for that body.

I now turn to an area in which Canada expressed particular interest at the preparatory talks -- that of co-operation in expanding contacts between people and in solving humanitarian problems. Without improvement in human contacts and relations of all kinds, the work that we shall do here and in Geneva will have limited practical effect and little meaning for our peoples. More normal relations and

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