

humanitarian concern for the welfare of the poorest and the dispossessed on "space-ship earth".

But it is not simply a question of social justice. We have come to realize that, in an increasingly interdependent world, it is in the mutual self-interest of all nations to ensure that the problems of developing countries are effectively addressed. This is the second of our two guiding principles.

I do not need to elaborate before this group the extent of global economic interdependence. All of us in this room are only too conscious of the importance of developing countries to Western economies as well as, of course, the inverse. Even for the United States, whose economy has essentially been driven by domestic rather than international markets, the acceleration of interdependence among nations for goods and services has had the effect of eroding the relative isolation of the US economy. By 1979, in fact, one US worker in 20 was employed in production of exports destined specifically for the Third World.

Interdependence is thus no longer an option — even for a superpower such as the United States — and that is why I was particularly disappointed by the US decision not to sign the Law of the Sea Treaty. Interdependence is in fact a condition of international life today. The challenge for all governments — now more than ever — is therefore to summon the courage and wisdom to avoid short-sighted assertions of national interest which have a "beggar thy neighbour" effect.

As a member of Parliament for a riding which depends upon automotive production, however, I can well appreciate the real dilemmas involved. The mutual gains that trade can have for developed and developing countries are not always evident to the unemployed automotive or textile worker, although they can be very obvious for a higher-paid worker producing aircraft or high technology products for export. But in these days of severe global economic difficulties, a return to the attitudes and policies of half a century ago would serve none of us well.

Active in North-South dialogue

It is for these fundamental reasons that Canada has been concerned not only to enhance the development prospects of developing countries and strengthen the functioning of international institutions, but also to play an active role in the negotiation of the whole range of issues that constitute the North-South dialogue. And I believe Canada has a unique role to play.

Our economy is at once industrialized and resource-based; sophisticated, yet in some ways under-developed. Thus we share many of the perspectives of our industrialized partners. At the same time, our position as a major exporter of raw materials and net importer of capital and technology is similar to the situation of many developing countries. Canada has been characterized both as the world's smallest industrialized country and as its largest developing country. Appreciating the real concerns and
