

CANADA

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OUR COVERS: On the front and back of this Magazine are two pictures on the theme of the US-Canadian border. They are taken from the book 'BETWEEN FRIENDS' produced specially in Canada to commemorate the US bicentenary. On pages 7 to 11, we present pictures and text from the book.

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TOWARDS A MORE EQUITABLE WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

—A CANADIAN CONCERN

We present here excerpts from two speeches—the first from a report on the UNCTAD IV Conference to the House of Commons by the former Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Allan J. MacEachen, now President of the Privy Council; the second from a speech on September 29 to the UN General Assembly by the new Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Donald C. Jamieson.

UNCTAD IV — like all conferences where countries are required to make compromises in order to ensure agreement—did not achieve all that Canada or other developed and developing countries might have wished. But it was, without question, a most important step in the effort to reduce disparities between developed and developing countries that were initiated at the seventh special session of the United Nations.

In my statement to the conference on May 1, I touched on the four areas Canada considered would be the main issues to be dealt with: the problems of stabilization of commodity trade, the alleviation of debt-servicing difficulties of many developing countries, liberalization of trade to benefit developing countries, and transfer of technology to developing countries. Of these, the commodities issue proved to be the central focus of the conference. Indeed, the adoption, by consensus, of a resolution that established an integrated programme proposes a list of 18 commodities of particular interest to the developing countries for consideration, describes the international measures to be taken in the context of the program, and establishes procedures and a timetable for pursuing it.

On the important question of common fund, the resolution provides for a negotiating conference to be held next year

and for a series of preparatory meetings. As a major importer and exporter of commodities, we shall be actively involved in these international discussions and shall work with the other participants to resolve the problems of commodity trade which concern developing countries. These discussions and negotiations will provide the appropriate basis for examining the "parameters" of a common fund and for a decision regarding its establishment.

The conference also took an important decision on the subject of the financial problems of developing countries by adopting, again by consensus, a resolution on the debt problems of developing countries.

Canada supported all of these resolutions, offering explanatory statements on a number of them. We also, together with other industrialized countries, supported a proposal for further study of the concept put forward by the United States. Dr. Kissinger had proposed to the conference that early consideration be given to the establishment of an international resources bank to facilitate resource development in the poorer countries.

Despite the difficulties that arose at the conference and the problems that still need to be resolved, I believe that the outcome augurs well for the continuing dialogue between the developed and developing countries.

UNCTAD IV has now taken place. The present phase of the Paris Conference will bear fruit.

The work of the Paris Conference is proceeding in parallel with work in the larger international bodies associated with the U.N. system. Its participants are aware that they must retain a global perspective on the problems before them if non-participants in the conference are to have confidence in its results, and if these are to influence the actions of governments in the longer term. The conference is part of a continuing process of negotiation aimed at narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor. The process is complex and it is permanent. Old problems will not disappear quickly and new problems will emerge. In the pursuit of a more equitable international economic system, Canada is prepared to commit its efforts and resources.

Yet our difficulties should not obscure the fact that we have made significant progress towards agreement on the nature of our agenda and priorities, despite the lack of concrete achievement. If our preparation is thorough, and our approach to it sincere, achievement will be more likely to follow, provided that the requisite political will exists on all sides. It is now my earnest hope that

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