



# Statements and Speeches

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## MILESTONES ON THE ROAD TO A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

A Canadian Statement at the Conference on International Economic Co-operation by the Honourable Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Paris, May 30, 1977.

Canada is pledged to the task of shaping a new economic order to reduce the gap between the wealth of the few and the poverty of the many. We sought participation in the CIEC (Conference on International Economic Co-operation), and accepted the co-chairmanship, because we believed that this conference would provide vital impetus to the ongoing "North/South dialogue". At the same time, it presented a first opportunity to address energy problems of increasing importance to all countries.

We must now at this ministerial meeting make a significant contribution to a better economic order. I am convinced that we can. I see already four milestones of signal importance and, within these, progress in many areas. The four are:

a new emphasis on official development assistance;

a new appreciation of the extent of developing-country integration into the international economic system;

a fresh spirit of willingness to examine new solutions;

an important international understanding on energy matters.

At the first milestone, the CIEC has already underscored the primacy and importance of official development assistance to the economic progress of developing countries. Recent concentration on access, technology, shipping and a host of other subjects may have suggested that "trade not aid" was the all-important key to development efforts. Without in any sense denying the importance of such non-aid aspects, I think that the CIEC has served to remind the international community that resource transfers of constantly-increasing magnitude are urgently needed, and will be needed for decades to come.

As a result of this renewed emphasis, one of the measures of our success will be the commitments that can be secured on ODA (official development assistance) from donor countries. Speaking for Canada, the fifth-largest DAC (Development Assistance Committee) donor for official development assistance, I can assure you that we shall continue to work towards the 0.7 percent target. Despite severe spending strictures on virtually all Government programs, we are determined that Canadian levels of assistance will continue to rise; the Canadian Government intends to disburse \$1,100 million in fiscal year 1977 — an increase in excess of \$100 million over the previous year. I can tell you that this increase relates directly to our participation in the CIEC.