

In June, we concluded the agreement to establish a Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Matters. In September our Minister of Agriculture Eugene Whelan visited here to discuss cooperation in agricultural technology. In November, the first meeting of the Joint Economic Committee was held in Ottawa. Now I am pleased to come here at the head of a delegation representing several government departments to build on these efforts and to prepare for future visits and I can assure you we shall not let up.

We have always looked upon Brazil as one of our major interlocutors as we have progressively become more engaged in hemispheric affairs. Our own separate political traditions, which are so different from those of most of the other members of the hemisphere, have given us an understanding of the special position occupied by Brazil in the Inter-American system. If we look at you outside the framework of the western hemisphere and in the broader context of the world at large, we see in you a country that is very much a part of the west, but one whose pattern of development allows it to understand the aspirations of the third world.

We too are well-positioned to appreciate the aspirations of developing nations to attain a more rapid transfer of real resources and accelerate their pace of development. As the co-chairman for the industrialized nations at the Conference on International Cooperation, in which Brazil too is an important participant, we have been working strenuously and closely with Sr Perez Guerrero of Venezuela to bridge the gap that at present divides the developed and developing countries.

I have been struck recently by the extent to which the discussions at the Conference between developed and developing countries on commodities as well as on other issues central to the north-south dialogue have become rhetorical. It concerns me deeply that we do not yet seem to be able to make significant progress on these key issues. It does seem to me that countries like Canada and Brazil can, particularly in the area of commodities, contribute in a pragmatic way toward finding solutions that meet the needs of developed and developing alike.

In some commodities our exports make up a significant portion of total world trade. For example, in the case of iron ore, exports from our two countries amounted to about 23% of world iron ore trade in 1974. For colombium concentrates Brazilian and Canadian exports constituted