

increases in these countries, however, even a 5 per cent growth rate would not allow any real narrowing of the gap that now separates their standards of living from those of the advanced countries. The conference recognized that a responsibility in narrowing this gap remained with the developing countries. It also recommended measures that the international community should undertake to aid the development of the less developed countries and in this regard it recommended that each developed country endeavour, within the measure of its capability, to achieve a level of assistance that would come as close as possible to 1 per cent of its national income. The special position of capital importing countries was, however, recognized. The house may be sure that the government will give careful study to the implications of this recommendation in the light of the action which we have already taken to make substantial increases in the Canadian external aid program during the current fiscal year.

The conference also reached agreement that there should be new institutional machinery within the United Nations to carry forward the work begun at Geneva and to bring into focus the problems of trade as they affect economic development. The general assembly of the United Nations at its next session will be asked to endorse the holding of similar conferences on a regular basis and the establishment of a new trade and development board. The house will be pleased to learn that Canada, as a major trading nation, is assured of a continuing place on the new board, where it will have continuing opportunities to help find solutions to the trade

problems of the developing countries with a proper regard for the interests of other countries with more developed economies.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government has played a positive and constructive role in this conference. As the house is aware there had been concern, for a time, that the conference might not be able to achieve agreement on the means of dealing effectively with the issues before it. I am glad to be able to say that, in a spirit of accommodation and realism on the part of all concerned, agreement on a very wide front was achieved in the final days and hours of the conference. This, Mr. Speaker, is a good augury for the further endeavours which all countries will have to make in attacking the problem of underdevelopment. In this task the less developed countries recognize that theirs is the primary responsibility. If, however, their own efforts are to be effective they must be supplemented and supported by constructive international action. I can assure the house that, for its part, the government will study the results of the conference in that spirit and will continue to co-operate fully in further international efforts to create conditions in which the less developed countries can participate more fully in the benefits of world trade.

I would not wish to conclude my statement without paying particular tribute to Mr. Dana Wilgress, the leader of the Canadian delegation, who brought his wide experience and great understanding to bear upon the issues facing the conference and who, I know, was in no small part responsible for the success which has attended its deliberations.

---