

pneumonia. Having only one-tenth the population of the United States, Canada has therefore tended to look to universally agreed "rules of the game" to help put us on a more equal footing when conflicts of interest occur.

Our geography has additional consequences. Without any other close neighbours geographically, we do not fall naturally into any regional grouping. Regional associations that discriminate against non-regional partners thus can have a greater negative impact on Canada than on other nations. While supportive of efforts for regional cooperation, therefore, we have continued to emphasize global solutions to the problems of international economic relations.

We also have a relatively small population and hence a small domestic market. We are thus heavily dependent on trade for our economic growth. In fact, about 30% of our GNP is dependent on exports, compared to 12% for the United States. Of the major industrialized countries represented at the annual economic Summits, none is more dependent than Canada on the trade dimension for economic growth. Just to illustrate, it is estimated that more than 2 million Canadians are directly involved in the production of goods for export - that is about 20% of our total work force. Our major export industries are also our most efficient producers. They command the best prospects for future growth and, most significantly, for the generation of profitable jobs for Canadians.

Such basic interests have led over the years to consistent Canadian attempts to "multilateralize" our economic relationships. Leaders such as Louis St. Laurent and Lester Pearson were keenly aware that our long-term interests were best served through the development of international institutions that would balance the influence of the great powers and contribute to a broader stability in the world. Canada, like our partners, clearly benefits from an economic system that promotes global and non-discriminatory approaches and commands the support of all major players.

Mr. Chairman, it is precisely our stake in an open and stable international economic system that has driven home to us the importance of encouraging fuller participation of developing countries in that system. We welcome their input in creating a system more responsive to their needs. I do not believe it can be in anyone's self-interest to deny fundamental economic justice to vast numbers of peoples when we know that the perception of justice denied has so often led to international conflict and violence. Like justice, the system must not only be