

real growth of defence expenditures has exceeded that target. The Government has taken steps to acquire new F-18 fighter aircraft, Aurora patrol aircraft, military trucks, tanks, and patrol frigates. An agreement for defence systems testing has been signed with our American allies.

While honouring our international defence commitments, we have continued both publicly and privately to work towards mutual limitations and to advance the nuclear suffocation approach first proposed by the Prime Minister in 1978. An Ambassador for Disarmament was appointed. At the 1983 Williamsburg Summit, Canada played a key role in the process leading to the adoption of a declaration on security and arms control by the participating countries. Recently, the Prime Minister launched a new peace initiative intended to improve communication, and hence the prospects for progress on arms control and disarmament.

Canada has undertaken a number of actions to help developing nations. During the 1981 North-South Summit, which the Prime Minister co-chaired, Canada demonstrated leadership in helping to keep North-South lines of communication open in the face of international forces pressing for a retreat into isolationism and protectionism. On a per capita basis, Canada has resettled one of the largest numbers of foreign refugees of any country in the world: more than half of these refugees were government-sponsored. We have progressed towards raising official development assistance to 0.5 percent of Canadian Gross National Products by 1985.

Recently this Parliament approved amendments to the Bretton Woods Act to increase our contribution to the International Monetary Fund.

Canada played an active role with other major industrialized countries in seeking solutions for fundamental economic and political problems, and was pleased in 1981 to be host for the annual Economic Summit.

In particular, we have sought to resolve bilateral issues with our American neighbours. Many efforts were successful—for instance, in the transborder trucking and softwood lumber issues. Amendments to the Clean Air Act were passed which provide automatic Canadian matching of U.S. measures which afford environmental protection to Canada, and a bilateral agreement recently was concluded for a joint study of acid rain.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

I thank you for the provision you have made for the public services in the previous and current fiscal years.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

May Divine Providence continue to bless our country.

The Honourable The Speaker of the Senate then said:

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

It is the will and pleasure of His Excellency the Governor General that this Parliament be prorogued until three o'clock in the afternoon, Wednesday next, December 7, 1983, to be here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued until three o'clock in the afternoon, Wednesday next, December 7, 1983.