The problems of protectionism and world trade have been prominent at all Summits. In the late 1970's, leaders gave support and impetus to the Tokyo Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, which were successfully concluded in 1979. At London in 1984 and at Bonn in 1985 leaders sought to advance a new multilateral trade round which will be launched this fall.

At Montebello in 1981, leaders discussed international monetary issues and emphasized the desirability of minimizing the volatility of interest and exchange rates. Leaders at Versailles and Williamsburg asked their Finance Ministers, in consultation with the IMF, to examine aspects of the international monetary system. At Williamsburg in 1983, leaders agreed to adopt a case-by-case approach to the international debt problem.

Relations between developed and developing countries were a special theme of the Summit held in Canada in 1981. Deliberations at Montebello contributed to the preparations for the Cancun Summit between leaders of North and South which took place later that year. At Bonn in 1985, a special expert group was established, which reported to Summit Foreign Ministers last fall on the crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Global political issues have also featured in Summit discussions. The previous Tokyo Summit focussed world attention on the plight of Indo-Chinese refugees. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and its effects on East-West relations was highlighted at Venice in 1980. Leaders at Versailles in 1982 agreed on a general approach to East-West economic relations, which carried over into the development of more specific policies at NATO and the OECD that year. Terrorism has been the subject of separate declarations at a number of Summits, with Canada playing a major role at Bonn in 1978 in the adoption of a Declaration on International Air Hijacking.

Other subjects as diverse as international cooperation in science and technology, narcotic drug abuse, and protection of the environment, have also been addressed by Summit leaders in the past.