

and services that Canada can provide. With increasing economic power, their influence has grown in international forums and within the group of developing nations. Finally, they are possessors of large natural resources, some of which are of particular value to Canada - oil being the prime example.

These countries are eagerly seeking the technical know-how of the industrialized nations and are building up indigenous S&T infrastructures to support their industrial development. Unwilling to become overly dependent upon the United States, they are actively seeking S&T collaboration with countries like Canada and in fact, formal requests for government-to-government agreements have been received over the last few years from South Korea, Mexico, Venezuela and Brazil. Canada is therefore presented with a golden opportunity to help develop valuable closer political and trade relationships and perhaps secure future oil supplies while at the same time being seen to fulfill its major international commitment to helping the developing countries.

The opportunity presented by the MDCs should be vigorously pursued but as a goal in its own right, and separate to the international assistance programme, because of the conflicting objectives involved. The thrust should concentrate on a few chosen areas within a limited number of MDCs selected on the grounds of appropriate S&T capabilities, market potential, natural resource importance and political influence.

Finally, a further rather special category of developing country is represented by the OPEC nations. Like the MDCs, to which group some of them belong, they are heavily concentrating upon building up their industrial capacities and are seeking assistance particularly in the technology and S&T infrastructure areas. While the strategy of cost recoverable assistance should be aimed at in relations with the OPEC nations, it is possible that the national interest may call for other forms of S&T collaboration. - Clear indications have already been given in major world forums that future oil supplies might in some way be tied to the transfer of technology or to S&T assistance. It would therefore be only prudent to study the situation and devise alternative approaches well in advance of such demands becoming an actual factor in secure oil supplies.