

consideration of energy issues in the international sphere. National governments everywhere must accept the existence of differing perspectives, eschew confrontation, and develop a shared commitment to resolve energy problems in as non-disruptive a way as possible. Without this commitment, it is doubtful if our common economic, monetary, social and political structures can much longer withstand the kind of abrupt, unpredictable changes we have witnessed in the past few years.

In closing, I want to leave with you a consideration which I hope can assist you in your deliberations during this conference. For many reasons, Canada mirrors the world situation. Unlike most other countries, we have both energy-rich and energy-importing regions. And, as you know, we are trying to reconcile strongly divergent consumer and producer interests in an open, democratic way. I believe that on the international scene Canada's awareness of the potential for misunderstanding between consumers and producers gives to our perspective a distinctive, perhaps unique, character. I hope that our domestic experience and learning processes will help us bring to the international scene a viewpoint that is relatively uncluttered with stereotyped and entrenched views. If we can assist in that process, then we will have contributed to solving one of the modern world's most urgent problems. I wish you well in your deliberations which begin today, and hope that you, too, can contribute to this important process.