

closely with the CPCU [Canadian Preparatory Committee on UNCED], business and the provinces to reach these positions. We have met with representatives of other countries to explore possible solutions.¹

However, in a speech to Canadian preparatory committee meetings for UNCED, Mrs. McDougall warned against too high expectations for the conference, suggesting that high expectations might slow progress.

The issues are far too complicated for a once-and-for-all solution to the problems facing the planet to come out of Rio. In fact, UNCED should be seen as one large step that will carry us forward to many others.²

Speaking at a special debate in the House of Commons on UNCED, the Minister of the Environment, Jean Charest gave a more detailed outline of the Canadian approach and position. He said:

The government is committed to sustainable development...Canada is one of only three countries in the world to have adopted a comprehensive long-term approach to sustainable development, our green plan....There are many links between the green plan and the global plan that will be considered in Rio. For example, agenda 21 is a detailed proposal for global action....In chapter after chapter one finds proposals for action that extend and complement action under the green plan....We hope the Earth Summit will stake out new territory. In fact,...it cannot do otherwise. We also hope to leave Rio with certain essential elements we do not have at this moment: a plan for cooperation and some of the institutional mechanisms required to implement that plan....We will try to conclude a comprehensive agreement, one that with a little luck will chart a new course for the people of this planet.³

In his speech to the conference Prime Minister Mulroney discussed five "crucial" steps advocated by Canada to build on the momentum created by the conference. These were:

1. for all countries to develop Green Plans, Canada will participate in a pilot programme to share its experience with other states;

¹ Barbara McDougall, Secretary of State for External Affairs. "Canada has played leadership role in UN conference," *Kingston Whig-Standard*, 4 March 1992: 4.

² Secretary of State for External Affairs. "Notes for an Address by the Honourable Barbara McDougall, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Canadian Preparatory Committee on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development," *Statement*, 92/7, 21 February 1992: 1.

³ *Commons Debates*. 7 May 1992: 10333-34.