

not so much because we seek to preserve within these organizations the power of the industrialized minority, but because we want to maintain and even improve their effectiveness for the resolution of international conflicts, be they military, political or economic in nature.

The Government of Canada also feels that we must go beyond declarations and statements of principles and search for practical solutions to the very real problems raised by the third world. A long-drawn confrontation between developing and industrialized countries would be sterile and fraught with danger. We feel that a strategy of accommodation and negotiation would be in the best interest of all; and I believe that, in many respects, the Government of Nigeria shares our feeling.

This is very much what brings me to Africa. We want the next special session of the United Nations on development to succeed, that is, to lead to concrete results.

Accordingly, the Government of Canada has recently established an inter-departmental committee to review the full range of our economic relations with developing countries and to identify the possible areas where changes can be gradually introduced to establish a more balanced relationship between ourselves and other industrialized countries, and the third world. But we felt that technical studies were not enough, that we had to consult with developing countries and especially with those like Nigeria which have become, in recent years, quite as important for us as some of our more traditional friends and partners on the international scene.

However, we Canadians feel that we must not be content with action at the multilateral level. We also hope to strengthen our bilateral relations with the countries of the third world. We have tried, in the past, to co-operate with them through economic and technical assistance. But we feel that we must go now beyond this form of co-operation to expand trade, engage in mutually beneficial investments and industrial co-operation as well as cultural exchanges, and forge new links in all areas of human endeavour. We hope that this approach will be beneficial to developing countries, but I tell you quite frankly, Mr. Commissioner, that we expect it also to be in our own national interest.

The strengthening of our relationship with Nigeria and other African countries is an important element of our policy of diversification of external relations, alongside with the forging of new links with Europe, Japan and the maintenance of a harmonious and balanced relationship with the U.S.A. In fact, Canada's foreign policy has become universal and is now seeking new partnerships in all directions.