- I WOULD LIKE TO STAY WITH AFRICA FOR A MOMENT, AS IT CLEARLY PRESENTS A SPECIAL CHALLENGE. FINANCING IS ONLY ONE PART OF THE PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH IT IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PART. CLEARLY A COHERENT STRATEGY INVOLVING EXTERNAL AND DOMESTIC FINANCING, MACROECONOMIC POLICIES, TRADE POLICIES, SECTORAL AND SOCIAL POLICIES IS REQUIRED. POLITICAL WILL IS REQUIRED FROM AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR PEOPLE, AND RENEWED, LONG TERM COMMITMENT BY THE DONOR GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE FORTHCOMING UN SPECIAL SESSION ON AFRICA COULD BE THE OCCASION TO BEGIN FORGING THIS POLITICAL WILL, AND FOR RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT.
- AS DONORS, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE ADJUSTMENT OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. THE EFFORTS BY THE WORLD BANK AND BY THE UN TO COORDINATE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO RECIPIENT COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO IMPROVE AID EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH COORDINATION AND SUPPORT FOR POLICY REFORM.
- WE ALSO NEED TO EXAMINE OUR OWN EFFORTS. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE HAS PLAYED A USEFUL ROLE IN THIS REGARD. PARTICULARLY WHEN DOMESTIC BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS IN OUR OWN COUNTRIES MODERATE GROWTH OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE ALLOCATIONS, THERE MAY BE ROOM TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND QUALITY OF OUR ODA. IN CANADA WE ANTICIPATE THAT GROWTH IN ODA OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WILL BE ROUGHLY 8.7 PER CENT PER YEAR. MOREOVER CANADA, IN OUR MOST RECENT BUDGET, DECIDED TO EXTEND ALL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AS GRANTS RATHER THAN LOANS. IN ADDITION, IN LIGHT OF OUR CONCERN FOR THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF POORER COUNTRIES, WE ARE LOOKING SERIOUSLY AT WHAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO RELIEVE THE BURDEN OF PAST ODA LOANS STILL OUTSTANDING, PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE COUNTRIES MAKING COURAGEOUS EFFORTS TO RESTORE THEIR ECONOMIES TO A SOUNDER BASIS.
- MR. CHAIRMAN, THERE IS ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE ROLE OF CREDITOR GOVERNMENTS THAT CONCERNS ME, NAMELY THE ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENTS THAT WE EXPECT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN CONNECTION WITH INCREASED FINANCIAL FLOWS. NOTWITHSTANDING THE EFFORTS OF THE LAST THREE YEARS, WE ALL KNOW HOW MUCH MORE STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT IS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINED GROWTH IN SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES. BUT I HAVE ALSO NOTED THE