

"Although Canada may not be as vulnerable as most of the countries around this table to the direct effects of the energy crisis, we are, as a responsible member of the world community and as a major trading nation, directly and immediately concerned with the world-wide results of the changes in oil prices.

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"There is a clear community of interest between oil exporters and developed countries in protecting the world financial system. The oil exporters are, after all, being paid in money. We share an interest in protecting its value. Despite our best efforts there may be something of an adversary atmosphere in working out certain aspects of the oil trading relationship. It would be a pity if this were also to enter into our approach to monetary and fiscal matters. Can we not envisage a participation of oil exporters in the IMF and World Bank commensurate with their increased importance in terms of world financial power? Given the mutuality of interest which exists, there is every reason for developed countries and oil exporters to work together to deal with problems in this area.

Plight of developing nations

"Most developing countries are badly hit. Over-all the increase in their bill for imported oil will exceed the total flow of aid last year from all private and public sources. They lack the reserves to meet more than a fraction of the expenditures called for and they are the countries least able to obtain credit to finance their imports. If no solution is found they will have to reduce the pace of economic activity already inadequate. In fact they will have to cut back imports of food for their people and of fertilizers and fuel required to produce food domestically. The supply of other necessities will also be cut back. For many countries the situation must be termed disastrous. On humanitarian grounds, in terms of the solidarity of the international community and in view of the political consequences of serious distress in such a wide area of our planet, a special international effort is called for.

"It is tempting to point a finger of accusation at oil producers. We must, however, recognize that not all oil

producers find themselves in the same economic circumstances. They are not all rich. Moreover, accusatory exhortation from developed countries is not the best way of calling forth a spirit of co-operation. Our example would be more persuasive. Without any doubt we need the help of oil-producing countries if we are to succeed in producing the necessary enlargement of the flow of development aid bilaterally or through multilateral institutions. Canada is prepared to play its part.

"Neither buyers nor sellers of oil have an interest in anarchy or confusion in the market place. Both desire and would benefit from stability and certainty. Hence a framework which would allow oil prices to be determined on a basis considered fair and reasonable by both buyers and sellers is to be sought. Canada, as both a producer and importer of oil, is experiencing the delicate problem of reconciling these interests within our own borders; we see no alternative to undertaking the same process internationally: that is to move the broader discussions among consumers and producers including suitable representation of less-developed countries.

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Possible action

"Research and development on the more efficient use of energy, the protection of the environment, and the development of new sources of energy will play an obvious role in ensuring future energy supply for all countries. A demonstrated ability to conserve existing energy sources while bringing on alternative supplies of energy could moderate any further upward movement in the price for petroleum. We would welcome and be prepared to participate in a pooling of energy research and development amongst developed countries, a pool which would be shared with developing countries.

"It should be relatively easy for us to focus on the facts of the situation and identify the main issues. We will probably be able to agree that there are a number of areas where action is required. The difficulty will come in determining the nature of action to be taken and the means which should be employed. It is unlikely that the variety of problems lend themselves to any single solution. Existing international institutions should be employed

wherever possible. Good work has already been done by the IMF, the World Bank and OECD. We should not rule out, however, further methods of approach which would allow us to co-ordinate our efforts and to establish the contacts, which we must do, with those not represented here today. They too may be seeking consultation with us and with each other. We should make it crystal clear at the conclusion of this conference that we seek co-operation which will lead to immediate and effective concerted action on the most urgent problems."

Canada-Switzerland exchange information on drugs

The Department of National Health and Welfare will exchange information on an agency-to-agency basis with the Swiss Inter cantonal Office for the Control of Drugs regarding the manufacture, quality assessment, analysis and distribution of pharmaceutical products.

Similar agreements have already been reached with the United States Food and Drug Administration, the British Department of Health and Social Security and the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare. Discussions with officials of other European countries are also under way.

Provisions made in the accords enable the Health Protection Branch to monitor more effectively the safety, therapeutic efficacy and quality of drugs imported into Canada.

B.C. Government buys into Westcoast

The British Columbia Government has bought 1,157,125 common shares of Westcoast Transmission Co. Ltd of Vancouver, paying \$22 a share, for a total consideration of \$25,456,750 to El Paso Natural Gas Co. of El Paso, Texas, U.S.A. The purchase of the 13.5 percent interest makes the government the second largest shareholder in Westcoast. The biggest shareholder is Phillips Petroleum Co. of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, which controls an interest of just under 35 per cent. Premier David Barrett described the purchase as "a tremendous coup for the people of British Columbia".