

positive and co-operative manner, there is a broad range of differing national interests and philosophies among the developed, developing and OPEC members of the conference. To a degree, it was this very diversity of interests and the consequent difficulty of providing leadership equally responsive to both the group of eight -- the developed members -- and the group of 19 -- the developing members -- that led to the choice of the two co-chairmen as a technique for organizing the conference. This co-direction of the conference is symbolic of the determination of the member countries to work together and to accept shared responsibility for the results.

Just as Dr. Perez Guerrero and I have a certain responsibility for ensuring that the work of the conference proceeds in an orderly and constructive manner, so the co-chairmen of the commissions have a responsibility for guiding the work of their commissions so that they achieve results that are broadly acceptable to the international community, including those countries that are not members of the conference. As I said, I have been working closely with my co-chairman and I am sure that the co-chairmen of the commissions will also work together constructively.

Canada is a member of two of the four commissions: Energy and Development. The dialogue in the energy commission may eventually encompass such sensitive issues as oil prices, indexing and security of supply. We hope that it will lead to increased stability in the international oil market, which would facilitate the orderly planning and development of Canada's own energy needs. I also trust the dialogue will make a real contribution to solving the problems of the developing countries most seriously affected by the rise in oil and other prices.

I am particularly pleased that Canada will participate in the work of the Development Commission. As you know, Canada has won considerable respect in the Third World for its stand on development questions. I can assure the House that Canada will continue this positive approach in the Development Commission, which will probably consider a broad range of issues in such key areas as food and agricultural development, industrial and technological co-operation, trade liberalization and official development assistance.

Canada is not a member of the Raw Materials and Finance Commissions. As they may deal with a number of vital issues, such as the stabilization of commodity prices, the stabilization of earnings derived from commodity exports and international financial questions, we do have a substantial interest in their proceedings. We shall, therefore, be following the work of these commissions closely through our observers in them. We expect to consult frequently and

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