

At UNCTAD IV, Dr. Pérez Guerrero stated on behalf of the developing members of CIEC -- the Paris Conference -- that failure in Nairobi could bring into question the continuation of that dialogue. The 19 developing countries which are members of CIEC have now assessed the situation. In the light of the progress made on a number of important questions at Nairobi, they have indeed judged it useful to continue the dialogue in Paris. I fully share the view that there is a satisfactory prospect for balanced progress in CIEC during the remainder of the year. In July, the CIEC will be reviewing the progress it has made and setting its course for the second half of the year. I am confident that the results of UNCTAD IV will help the Conference in Paris to pursue its essential objective -- the strengthening of international co-operation for the benefit of all.

So far as Canada is concerned, we shall pursue the work outstanding from UNCTAD IV in UNCTAD, CIEC, and other bodies. We shall pursue our interest in improving the international standard for official development assistance. Together with other countries, we shall consider further the balance of payments and debt problems of developing countries and the appropriate measures for meeting them. We shall continue to support the principle of joint producer/consumer financial responsibility, on a mandatory basis, for buffer stock financing within commodity agreements containing such stocks. We shall be actively involved in consultations and negotiations on individual commodities, and on the common fund. We shall devote efforts to see that the developing countries achieve additional benefits in the course of the multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva. We shall take an active part in the elaboration of a voluntary code of conduct for the transfer of technology, which is universally applicable.

While the decisions taken by UNCTAD IV mark an important stage in our common efforts to reduce disparities between developed and developing countries, our progress towards that goal -- to which the government is fully committed -- will not be easy and will require hard decisions. As we proceed along that course, there will be costs for Canada, and for individual Canadians. Their support will be essential, but with it -- and the support of this House -- we may approach these decisions in a confident and positive manner.