

resolution. Canada's efforts in this area over the past few months have been aimed at putting forward constructive positions reflecting Canada's interests in the long and short run. They have also been aimed at building bridges between developed and developing countries. Our delegation at the United Nations at the seventh special session was able to participate in that bridge-building role. Certainly, our role was a positive role, helpful in the circumstances, I believe. In my own statement at the seventh special session, I said that we were determined to play a positive role, using our resources and influence to bring about constructive change in the international economic system, thereby reducing the gap between rich and poor nations.

I reiterate that statement today. I attended the now resumed General Assembly that followed the special session and I met with the delegation at the General Assembly. I certainly expressed the clear view to the delegation that the document that had been adopted at the seventh special session was not to be regarded as a tactical move on the part of Canada, or as a response to a purely tactical situation; it was a document that we regarded as our document; we had supported it, and we ought to work positively in the General Assembly to have it move forward in the deliberations of the Second Committee....

I believe that, at the United Nations and in these other forums, we have made progress on commodities, trade liberalization, the transfer of resources, industrial co-operation, food and agriculture. We must ensure that the evolution of the international economic system continues in the right direction. We must take advantage of the improved international atmosphere. I believe a lack of will on the part of developed or developing countries in the field of international economic co-operation would result in our losing the gains made at the seventh special session.

The next steps in the process are the Conference on International Economic Co-operation in Paris, or the so-called producer-consumer conference, ongoing discussions in commodity councils leading up to UNCTAD IV in Nairobi, the continuing multilateral trade negotiations under GATT and the discussions of international financial and monetary issues at the IMF. In each of these forums, we shall be putting forward positions that reflect Canada's economic interests and our desire to strengthen the co-operation with developing countries.

The Conference on International Economic Co-operation will hold a ministerial session in December. I hope to attend that session, which I think will be a very crucial event in the evolution of international economic co-operation. Certainly, the atmosphere that