

violence and East-West conflict. In short, there could be a steady succession of Central Americas.

If the new Progressive Conservative government is right in arguing that a closer relationship with the US will add weight to our opinions in Washington, then we should use some of Canada's new-found influence to bring North-South development issues into sharper focus. Not only would such an effort be faithful to the long-term economic interests of our open economy, but it would also enhance global welfare and go far to assuage domestic concerns that our cherished and hard-won political independence is being eroded. Moreover Prime Minister Mulroney could be well qualified to supply leadership in this area. His brand of progressive conservatism — combining private enterprise with human decency — may be uniquely relevant to reviving the North-South dialogue.

**A proposal for Canada**

We therefore propose that the Canadian government undertake an initiative to generate consensus on a minimal agenda and a new "forum" to discuss crucial questions of

international development. Canada could help to move the stalled North-South discussions by underlining the importance of progress to every country's self-interest. As a first step, Canada should discuss such an undertaking with other like-minded countries of the North and South. What is sorely needed now — especially since the world economic situation is so volatile — is for "like-minded" countries of both the North and the South to rethink global policies of cooperation for development involving international trade, financial transfers and technology.

For much of the postwar era, the two superpowers have viewed the world as though it was designed on an East-West security-oriented axis. In this conception all countries, developed and developing alike, are spread along the axis in some rank order based on their "closeness" to one or another of the two superpowers. The developing countries, by contrast, have come to view the world on a North-South development axis. And just as it is now necessary to find some areas of agreement on the East-West axis, so too it is essential to map out and strengthen the North-South middle ground.

SIMON ALVES



Only his tailor knows for sure!