

contribution to this objective. However, the persistence of slow economic growth and high levels of unemployment poses a continuing risk of actions that restrict or distort trade.

The commitment of OECD member countries to the trade pledge has been an important constraint on such measures. There is a continuing need for the political commitment which the trade declaration represents. I therefore welcome its renewal.

We are only too conscious these days of the impact of energy problems on our economies and on the prospects for the world economy. I will touch today on only one aspect of the complex subject — the job which must be done to assist developing countries in meeting their needs for energy. Canada welcomed the decision of the World Bank to increase its support for exploration and development of oil, gas and coal in the less developed countries. Canada was also pleased to chair the working party established by the OECD Council to explore ways of assisting less developed countries to use renewable sources of energy. I hope that member countries will consider seriously the policy options set out in the report of the working party.

I also welcome the proposal that the organization be instructed to study in depth financial flows between developed and developing countries. The organization will of course wish to ensure that its work does not duplicate what is being done by other institutions. As the documents submitted to us suggest, greater attention must be paid to the encouragement of non-concessional and, especially, private capital flows. These are, and must continue to be, the major element in the total flow of financial resources to developing countries.

At the same time, flows on concessional terms are essential for the poorer countries. The Canadian Development Assistance Program of over \$1 billion annually is oriented primarily to the poorer countries. And for the least developed countries, our assistance is provided entirely on a grant basis. Efforts are also being made to improve the quality and efficiency of our program, while maintaining its high rate of concessionality.

The documents before us refer to the need to maintain public support in the developed countries for effective co-operation with developing countries. That is a challenge of which I am very conscious. Whether in large programs or small, in aid or in trade, co-operation with developing countries needs the support of public opinion in our countries.