

to develop a new economic order, which will be discussed at the forthcoming special session.

To underline the point I wish to make tonight, I want to quote from Mr. Ramphal's speech made here in Ottawa last week. He said:

The current international dialogue is no longer about 'whether' but about 'what'—what kind of new order shall take the place of the old; what shall be its quality, what ends shall it serve, what means shall it employ? It is a dialogue about the character of fundamental change—not about the need for change itself. It is a dialogue to which the best minds of our time must be addressed; for upon its outcome will depend the character of our world society, will depend the quality of our human condition, will depend the very basis of our planetary survival.

It is in the light of that comment that I ask tonight for some assurance from the government as to what is being done to draw up some specifics in the Canadian statement to be presented at the U.N. General Assembly.

I repeat that it is not enough to bring general assurances of support. We know that the new international economic order is demanding some support by the developed nations. If we are to have any kind of world order and any kind of unity at all in the United Nations, we cannot have the developed nations turning their backs on the specifics which are being suggested for implementation of a new order. We cannot have the developing nations insisting on things which are impossible for us to meet. Therefore, what middle ground can the Canadian government offer in an effort to bring leadership to the question of advancing what Mr. Ramphal says is absolutely necessary, and that is, movement toward the new international economic order?

I ask if it is possible for the government to indicate tonight whether it is prepared to give leadership with respect to a commodities agreement, which would be part of the Canadian statement. Is it possible for the government to indicate whether it would support greater international control over stockpiles of grain and other essential commodities?

Is it possible for the Canadian government to indicate to us tonight whether we will move to more multilateral assistance through U.N. agencies and downgrade our bilateral programs, which we know have been a source of the problems the CIDA agency has met? With respect to the \$30 million cut in the CIDA budget, which was announced following the restraint program of the government, I ask also where those cuts are going to take place in the CIDA program. Is it possible for the government to indicate, so that the Canadian people will know, that the \$30 million cut in the CIDA budget is not as important as any move which will support structural changes affecting commodity agreements which relate to international stockpiling and multilateral assistance, in short, to the three areas I have mentioned? The Canadian government ought to give leadership in them.

I also ask if it is possible for the Canadian public to be made aware of what the Canadian position will be at New York in September, so that the government may get some feedback from members of parliament and non-governmental organizations which are expert in international development assistance. It is not enough for the Canadian government, in secret enclaves and in committees, to arrive at a decision and then go down to New York. I maintain that the decision ought to be made known to this

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House and the public, so that we shall have the chance to respond to the Canadian government. We do not want to oppose for the sake of opposition; we want to respond for the sake of strengthening our approach in New York, an approach which will be vital to advancing the economic order I mentioned.

I suggest that the Canadian government ought to take one hour of prime viewing time on television and explain its case to the Canadian people. Let it sponsor a program. We do not need more pictures of starving children; we have seen enough of those. We need a program which will show what is being done today and what is contemplated. This program is necessary if the Canadian people are to understand that there is a way out of the terrible catastrophe which, apparently, is facing the world. That way out involves the mobilization of the political will of countries as strong as Canada. Those are the questions I should like to hear answered tonight, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Charles Turner (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member is well aware, the Commonwealth heads of government recognized the need to take immediate steps toward the creation of a rational and equitable new international economic order. To that end they agreed that a small group of experts should be invited to draw up for consideration by Commonwealth governments possible practical measures and approaches, with a view to closing the gap between the rich and poor countries. Basically these measures would be designed to promote development and to increase the transfer of real resources to developing countries. This process, as was explicitly stated in the communiqué, is to take place "in the context of the current international dialogue". The United States, needless to say, is very much a part of that dialogue and we are pursuing consultations with it on these questions through the normal channels.

We welcome the statement by United States Secretary of State Kissinger that the United States is prepared to deal with the raw materials question with economic realism, political imagination, and understanding for the concerns of the developing world. This would seem to indicate that the United States is undertaking its own studies of developmental problems.

Clearly, the group of experts will not be meeting in an atmosphere of isolation from the world dialogue on developmental problems. There are continuous consultations on this topic in many forums, and Canada will be engaging in an intensive round of consultations with developed and developing countries in the weeks ahead leading up to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on development in September.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) attended a meeting of foreign ministers of OECD member countries during the final week of May, and developmental issues were a major focus of discussions. The purpose of the consultations in the OECD, for example, was not to devise a unified plan but to consider how industrialized countries, for their part and in their different circumstances, can respond to the needs of developing countries.