

Mr. Chairman,

Canada has long supported the Society for International Development. I was therefore particularly pleased to welcome its subsidiary body, the North-South Round Table, to Ottawa in the fall of 1980 and to participate in your discussions at that time. Today, I am honoured to be invited to celebrate with you the twenty-fifth anniversary of your Society.

The Society for International Development has a distinguished history. The frank and informal exchanges it has fostered among such a diverse group of people have made an important contribution to international development. Such exchanges are increasingly vital in the current global context. They can lead to increased understanding and the generation of fresh and innovative ideas which can hopefully attract the support of the international community as a whole. Our discussions can also stimulate real public involvement in each of our own countries - perhaps an even more significant catalyst for international cooperation.

Certainly these efforts are deserving of our full support. Canada has, therefore, placed importance on its contributions to SID activities and, in the current year, will be providing close to \$150,000.

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Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to rehearse today the lengthy litany of world economic problems. Nor do I wish to dwell upon the gravity of the current economic situation. It is, unfortunately, all too evident to everyone here. Rather, I would like to focus on a Canadian perspective of the North-South dialogue, the role we seek to play and why, and finally where we can go from here - nine months after Cancun. I propose to begin by outlining the underlying principles that guide Canada's approach to North-South issues.

Speaking as the Foreign Minister of my country, I have no hesitation in saying that Canada's national self-interest is the major determinant of our foreign policy. We are involved in the North-South dialogue - and will continue to be so - precisely because we believe it is important for our self-interest. In my view, however, national self-interest cannot be defined narrowly and parochially. It must be viewed both broadly and over the long term.

For Canada is faced with some inescapable realities. Geography has given us, as our immediate neighbour, the most powerful nation in the world. It has been said that when the United States catches a cold, Canada contracts