

for easier access to Western markets, and for increased transfers of Western technology. The oil-exporting countries seek to preserve the real value of their oil revenues, to enhance the value and prolong the availability of this depletable resource, to accelerate technology transfers as part of broadening their economies, and to maintain control of their production, pricing and marketing decisions. The OECD countries seek to reduce their dependence on oil, to bring about greater predictability to oil supply and moderation in price increases, to minimize the introduction of non-commercial considerations in the oil market and to ameliorate the consequences for oil-importing developing countries of the rising costs of oil imports.

These issues are at the centre of present North-South relations. The South comprises very different types of countries with divergent interests. To date both the oil-producing and the oil-importing developing countries have worked, through the Group of 77, to maintain a common front in North-South negotiations. This, and the effort to deal with the full gamut of North-South issues, partly explain the frustrations of some aspects of the dialogue over the last few years. However, all the partners recognize the vital importance of the issues and there is a determination to continue to seek ways forward. Negotiations are under way now on the "international development strategy" for the 1980s; the results of these negotiations will be considered by the UN at a special session on development called for August 25 to September 5. This session will also launch an ambitious new round of global negotiations, to start in 1981. These negotiations are potentially the most important ever held on North-South questions.

Canada has a key role to play in this dialogue. We have the economic weight, the political links, and a history of interest in these questions which is unique. Our position as an industrial country with a resource-based economy helps us understand both developed and developing countries. We have built up considerable goodwill in the Third World, as was shown in our co-chairmanship of the previous North-South summit. I intend, therefore, to ensure that we participate actively and creatively in the global negotiations.

The Prime Minister announced on March 21, 1980 the immediate start of a program for the consolidation of Canada's foreign service. This will mean a full integration into External Affairs of foreign service officers at the executive level, that is of officers in External Affairs, Industry, Trade and Commerce, and Employment and Immigration. As well, Canadian International Development Agency personnel will be given the opportunity to become full members of the foreign service. At the operational level, the trade commissioner service will preserve its separate identity, while immigration operations abroad will be merged into those of External Affairs. The main objectives of these and related steps are:

- to improve the economy and efficiency of foreign operations without affecting the policy and program-development roles of the departments involved;
- to unify the management of Canada's foreign posts and the image of Canada which they project; and,
- to improve the career prospects and broaden the experience of foreign service personnel.

The Prime Minister also announced the intention to proceed with a special study on the terms and conditions of foreign service from the point of view of foreign service officers and their families.