

Renewing confidence and resuming the course of progress implies an immediate strengthening of immediately strengthening the specific mechanisms and activities of co-operation among States and thus a return to the original meaning of interdependence.

For both Mexico and Canada, the continental scope of such co-operation is fundamental. Imbalances in the world economy have dealt serious blows to the countries of Latin America. Long decades of growth and growing expectations have been replaced by regressive forms of development that affect not only aspirations for progress, but also employment, consumption and the well-being of extensive groups of the population.

It is thus imperative to establish new continental relations that provide room for production, exports, the distribution of income and the political and social progress of all peoples. It is a question of expanding economic co-operation, and with it, development and stability; of broadening political communication with respect for plurality and, with it, the true security of all nations.

Latin America has revitalized its own endeavours. We have co-ordinated actions under a joint strategy aimed at renovating our approaches, criteria and mechanisms. Our goal is to bring about a system of collective economic security supported by regional integration, the strengthening of our forums and organizations, and the co-ordination of common stands. This is the meaning and the objectives of the Quito Declaration.

To supplement these actions, we Latin American countries have responsibly begun making adjustments in our economies—in a necessary effort to rationalize them—that have a painful social impact.

In Mexico's case, we have organized with determination to overcome the obstacles arising from adverse circumstances. Firmly united, the Mexican people have brought their combined sacrifice, work and trust to bear on the common task of reordering the economy. The National Development Plan we have drawn up is designed to respond to the most pressing problems, such as inflation and the fiscal and foreign economic imbalance. At the same time, the Plan involves a readjustment process designed to make the structural changes essential to improving the production base by guiding it realistically towards feasible priority areas of national development. Despite the great difficulties that Mexico has faced, we have maintained a reasonable level of spending and social investment with a view to fulfilling the binding commitments inherent in the history of our nation's development and to alleviating the suffering of the people.

Distinguished Members of Parliament, Canada has been outstanding among the countries of the industrialized world in its sensitive understanding of international realities and its commitment to dialogue, development and detente.

We have observed its growing interest in Latin America and, particularly, the attention it has been directing toward the Central American crisis. That interest has been effectively demonstrated by this Parliament with satisfaction. The estab-

lishment in 1981 of the Subcommittee to study Canada's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean is indicative of its desire to strengthen ties between our countries. Another outstanding example is Canada's decision to double, over a five-year period, the economic assistance it provides to Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Mexico and Canada agree that the major cause of the Central American crisis is the area's lack of economic and social progress. This is why Canada's contribution to the program of the Committee for the Support of Central American Economic and Social Development, created under the auspices of SELA (Latin American Economic System) is so important. Canada's experience in designing and implementing development projects, together with its financial and technological capacity, will unquestionably prove very useful.

Canada's commitment to stability in the region is also reflected in the support the Canadian Government has expressed in different forums for the peacemaking efforts of the Contadora Group. Today, with growing threats to peace in the region, the voice of Canada and its political and moral weight are particularly valuable.

Today, we are reiterating our conviction, that the only path to firm and lasting peace is full respect for law and for the principles and norms of peaceful international coexistence.

It is the unavoidable obligation of Central Americans to staunch their wounds and regain stability by revitalizing the age-old concept of unity and settling differences among brothers, while it is the duty of other countries to respect the free determination of these peoples and to abstain from the use or promotion of force as a means of solution. Fortunately, countries like Canada, and almost all the Latin American nations, have taken specific steps to demonstrate their full support for diplomatic negotiations. This build-up of the international desire for peace strengthens the possibility that law and reason will ultimately triumph over generalized violence and war.

Distinguished Members of Parliament, in today's world, characterized on the one hand by East-West tension—a sterile force that endangers the very existence of mankind—and on the other by the profound imbalance between the North and South and the instability bred by injustice and inequality, Mexico and Canada share the common goal of promoting dialogue, reducing tensions and furthering international co-operation for development.

In practice, Canada's and Mexico's foreign policy, as expressed in different forums, has often been the same and they have both promoted initiatives and striven for solutions to the serious problems that afflict mankind. This is not unusual. We have both always upheld the importance of international organizations for the maintenance of peace, security and co-operation, in the conviction that such organizations represent the values of peaceful coexistence among States and the supremacy of law over might.

I have come to Canada to reaffirm the high priority the Mexican Government confers on its relations with this coun-