

The CIEC is a new departure in relations between developed and developing countries. It requires a new approach by us. Instead of being on the defensive, we must be positive and innovative in our positions on the issues in Paris. In our view, this forum offers us the best hope at present for economic and political co-operation between developed and developing countries. Our interests lie in orderly adjustments in international economic relations in maintaining a sound and effective trade and payments system which serves the interests of all countries.

The December Ministerial meeting of CIEC will be a moment of truth, when political decisions will have to be made on important economic issues. We should all be aiming at a program for co-operation to come out of the December Ministerial meeting, which would include different types of decisions, levels of commitment, and directions for the future for a selected range of issues.

When CIEC comes to an end, even with the progress which we hope to achieve it is clear that serious problems will continue to exist. And the dialogue between North and South, rich and poor, will have to continue through the years ahead. The changing relationship between North and South is not transitory. It has become a permanent dynamic in the international system, a reality and a challenge which all of us must face squarely, now and in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.