

Abrupt and arbitrary actions affecting supply may seriously disrupt international economic cooperation. All of us, whether raw-materials producers or industrialized countries, whether developed or developing -- or a bit of both -- have a responsibility to exercise our sovereign rights in a manner that does not run counter to the interest of other countries and peoples in the maintenance of a favourable economic environment.

This is all the more important if the world is to exercise prudence in the consumption of finite resources. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to plan rationally for conservation of world resources within an unstable economic environment, in which countries must constantly adjust to fluctuations in world prices and supplies.

I turn then to the three urgent problems I identified at the outset -- food, energy and inflation.

FOOD

In the final analysis, foodstuffs are the most essential of raw materials. We are acutely aware of this because the world faces a grave situation, already marked by famine and distress. The World Food Conference in Rome later this year was called in recognition of the need to find constructive international solutions to this most pressing problem. We attach particular importance to the work of that Conference, yet the urgency of the matter justifies some further comments.

Canada has for years been a major exporter of food and a large contributor of food aid internationally. We shall maintain our food aid contributions bilaterally and through the international mechanisms we strongly support. The expenditure of an additional \$100 million was approved by the Canadian Government last week to meet the emergency needs of developing countries, particularly for food and fertilizer. The world food problem,