

The third major change in the past decade relevant to UNCTAD's role has been the change in world conditions affecting development. We have come to a time of transition in world economic arrangements. The trade and payments system established over twenty years ago, which has yielded benefits to all in terms of steady economic growth, has been subjected to increasing strains by the evolution of the world economy. On the monetary side, the exchange rate crisis of last autumn demonstrated that certain reforms and adjustments were required. The process of adjusting the economic arrangements made in the late Forties to the realities of today is a continuing one and one which will necessarily take place in a number of bodies. Indeed, Mr. President, I would remark that UNCTAD itself was a product of the Sixties, reflecting the emergence to independence of many new developing countries. That was one measure of adjustment to changing realities.

The process of monetary reform which is now underway in the International Monetary Fund will involve one of the major adjustments in the economic area. Canada supports the full participation of all IMF members, which include many developing countries, in the evolution of a monetary system suited to the present. It recognizes that all those involved in this central monetary body will wish to play a full part and that the interests of all will need to be taken into account.

Other measures of transition or adjustment have been the major rounds of multilateral trade liberalization which have taken place in the GATT during the past decade. In the light of the particularly serious threat to Canada from the disturbance of the international trade scene a few months ago, we regard as of equal or greater importance, the forthcoming round of multilateral trade negotiations. Canada looks forward to a negotiation which will embrace the widest possible range of products and barriers to trade. The non-discriminatory reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in agricultural and industrial products will benefit both the developing and developed countries and is in their common long-term interest. I am confident that all those countries interested in freer trade and wider access to world markets will wish to support this liberal initiative and to contribute to its success - in their own interest - through active and constructive participation.

Mr. President, the importance we attach to the strengthening of a liberal trade and payments system through the work being undertaken in the GATT and IMF has a corollary in the area of development assistance. Canada and Canadians recognize that the dynamism of liberal trade and payments arrangements must be supplemented by measures of direct benefit to developing countries to help hasten their growth and expand their participation in world trade. It is in this context that I want briefly to review what Canada believes can be accomplished in the field of development assistance to help developing countries and to outline what we are prepared to do.