

for this conference by contributing to the cost of the preparatory activities.

**Canada's
contribution**

Over the years, Canada has provided considerable energy assistance to developing countries. In the decade ending in 1982, we will have provided \$700 million in energy-related disbursements through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). In the 1979-80 fiscal year alone, we provided about \$100 million. These expenditures have been directed largely towards hydroelectrical power generation and distribution.

Some of you will also recall that under the provisions of the government's national energy program a new company is being created — Petro-Canada International. Its role will be to assist petroleum exploration in developing countries. Two hundred and fifty million dollars will be made available to Petro-Canada International over the next four years to be spent as development assistance.

In concluding, I want to suggest to you two additional ingredients that I believe will be essential if we are to make further headway in resolving difficulties in energy development on the international front.

The first is a better understanding of the complexities and dimensions of the over-all problem we are trying to resolve. This applies particularly to the general public, especially in the industrialized countries, which have a special responsibility, because they are by far the largest consumers of energy. As societies, we cannot afford either to panic or to be complacent; rather, we have to accept the difficult social and economic choices which are inevitable. This will mean modifying our social habits, the physical aspects of our homes, work-places and industrial processes as well as developing a new, complex array of human skills. Governments, corporations, scientists, voluntary organizations and interest groups will have to work effectively together.

I believe that the second essential ingredient is for governments themselves to dispel the confusion and misunderstanding that have so far surrounded much of the consideration of energy issues in the international sphere. National governments everywhere must accept the existence of differing perspectives, eschew confrontation, and develop a shared commitment to resolve energy problems in as non-disruptive a way as possible. Without this commitment, it is doubtful if our common economic, monetary, social and political structures can much longer withstand the kind of abrupt, unpredictable changes we have witnessed in the past few years.

In closing, I want to leave with you a consideration which I hope can assist you in your deliberations during this conference. For many reasons, Canada mirrors the world situation. Unlike most other countries, we have both energy-rich and energy-importing regions. And, as you know, we are trying to reconcile strongly divergent consumer and producer interests in an open, democratic way. I believe that on the international scene Canada's awareness of the potential for misunderstanding between consumers and producers gives to our perspective a distinctive, perhaps unique, character. I hope that our domestic experience and learning processes will help us bring to the international scene a viewpoint that is relatively uncluttered with stereotyped and entrenched views. If we can assist in that process, then we will have contributed to solving one of the modern world's most urgent problems. I wish you well in your deliberations which begin today, and hope that you, too, can contribute to this important process.

S/C