

relatively comfortable people who inhabit them, permit themselves, in their own interest, to abandon nearly two billion human beings to their miserable lot, with the choice of resigning themselves to despair or of turning to revolt?

Leaving aside the humanitarian considerations that still animate Canadians in their support for the voluntary organizations providing aid to the Third World, powerful political and economic motives would prompt Canada to help relieve the underdevelopment of the majority of the world's countries — about a 120 nations that are represented in the UN and in numerous other international organizations.

Canada can congratulate itself that, in all the world forums where matters of vital interest to it are discussed, the spirit of co-operation it has shown for many years merits consideration, including its frequent support for a group of countries whose total population makes up half of humanity. Canada has other affinities with these countries, of which many Canadians are only dimly aware. It was not so long ago that Canada became a sovereign country; the Statute of Westminster⁽²⁾ dates from 1931. Furthermore, like most of the Third World countries, Canada is an exporter of raw materials and relies for its industrial development on the contribution of foreign capital as much as on access to foreign markets.

Comparable circumstances and similar interests create conditions of mutual sympathy between the Third World countries and Canada. The co-chairmanship entrusted to Canada, with Venezuela, during the Conference on International Economic Co-operation ("North-South dialogue"), held in Paris in 1976 and 1977, was testimony both to the special position Canada enjoyed in the international community and to the convergence that brought together the Canadian "multidimensional co-operation" and the "new international economic order" called for by the Third World.

This convergence reflects a "mutuality of interests" between rich and poor countries, in which President Boumédiène of Algeria says he already sees a guarantee of the validity of co-operation agreements. Contrary to what is believed by many people in the industrialized world, there is no donor country that does not derive some benefit from its public aid, even if this is only the ability to continue such

⁽²⁾ The Statute of Westminster translated into law the decisions of the Imperial Conference of 1926 and established that the legislative powers of the Dominion parliaments equalled those of the Parliament at Westminster.