

Session on Development and the elaboration of an effective new international development strategy.

Satisfactory evolution of international economic relations depends perhaps as much on the manner in which we choose to approach these problems as it does on the issues themselves. We have been concerned about some of the rigidities of the group system which can conceal areas of flexibility and encourage an adversary approach. For this Conference let me propose two new groups. In one group let us place all our problems. In the other group let us place all the members of UNCTAD, united in our confrontation with the first group. Let us also be realistic about the complexity as well as the urgency of the problems we confront. They are not easily solved. Nations and peoples are impatient and we cannot slack our efforts. But we need long-term dedication and continuity of effort. Canada believes that economic progress is most commonly achieved by incremental processes of adaptation and accommodation. Our work will be more effective if it promotes gradual and evolutionary change.

Canada is committed to strengthening and improving the capacity of all countries to participate effectively in the international economy. Our substantial development assistance expenditure of over \$1 billion annually is oriented primarily to the poorer countries. For the least developed countries, it is provided entirely on a grant basis. Currently, efforts are being made to improve the quality and efficiency of the programme and maintain its high rate of concessionality.

In trade matters we will continue to work through the GATT and elsewhere to resist protectionism, to promote differential treatment according to the trade needs of particular groups of countries, to elaborate a code on the use of safeguard measures which will clarify their application and reduce uncertainty and which will accommodate developing country interests. Active consideration is being given to the manner in which our scheme of tariff preferences for developing countries can be improved.

We have been attempting to broaden and improve techniques for bilateral economic cooperation with developing countries. Recently, an agreement on trade and economic cooperation between Canada and the members of CARICOM, the Caribbean Community, has been signed. A further example is the approval now granted for the establishment in Canada of a Trade Facilitation Office to assist all less developed countries in identifying Canadian markets for their goods.