

As part of the Canadian approach we support the principle of joint producer-consumer financial responsibility on a mandatory basis for the establishment of buffer stocks within commodity arrangements containing such stocks. In the negotiation of the Fifth International Tin Agreement we had indicated that we were prepared to accept mandatory producer-consumer financing of the buffer stock. That Agreement, as negotiated, provides for voluntary contributions from consumer members. I am pleased to state that Canada shall make a financial contribution to the buffer stock of the Fifth International Tin Agreement.

At the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Canada indicated its willingness to examine sympathetically, along with other potential donors, the concept of a common fund to finance buffer stocks. In our view the need for such a fund and its operational modalities will depend on a number of commodities for which agreements based on buffer stocks are negotiated. We are prepared to continue examination of the proposal for a common fund in the light of the results of commodity consultations and negotiations.

In the months ahead we expect that interested Governments will come together to work out, within an agreed time frame, specific ways and means to deal with the problems of individual commodities and give effect to the decisions of this Conference.

#### Financial Problems of Developing Countries

There are a number of important financial issues of special concern to developing countries on the agenda of this conference. I wish to address two of these in particular - debt relief in the context of the balance of payments problems of developing countries and official development assistance.

The growth of the global balance of payments deficit of non-OPEC developing countries from approximately 9 billion dollars in 1973 to between 35 and 45 billion dollars in 1975 emphasizes the importance of our deliberations. It is not sufficient to address the current debt problems of developing countries. We must also work to reduce their occurrence in the future.