



Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark brought agricultural reform proposals to the table at the Venice Economic Summit last year.

past summits, for instance, leaders have exchanged views on East-West relations, arms control and disarmament, international terrorism, and regional issues such as South Africa, Afghanistan, Indo-China, and the Middle East.

Summit leaders have also addressed furthering international co-operation in energy, the environment, science and technology, human resources and health issues, including the combatting of drug abuse and the spread of AIDS. Naturally, the summit agenda changes from year to year to reflect the most pressing preoccupations of the time.

The Venice Summit

The Toronto Summit will build on the progress achieved at the 13th annual Economic Summit held in Venice, Italy, in June 1987. At the Venice Summit,

Canada helped focus discussion on four key issues.

First, the Canadian objective of obtaining strengthened commitment to policies that bolster global economic growth was met. Leaders reaffirmed support for the multilateral trading system and the "Uruguay Round" of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) in which Canada is playing a key role. There was recognition that predatory and protectionist trade practices could not continue and that the Uruguay Round negotiations must be quickly advanced. If the Uruguay Round of the MTN is successful, trade barriers will be lowered and international trade rules will be clearer and more effective, thus bolstering global growth of which trade is a major element.

Secondly, progress was achieved on agricultural trade, also a major Canadian priority at Venice. Since the 1986 Tokyo Summit — where Prime Minister Mulroney first introduced agriculture as a summit issue — there has been a growing consensus on the need for agricultural trade reform.

The Venice economic declaration strongly endorsed the agreement on agriculture that had been achieved at the OECD ministerial meeting the month before. Canada has worked in close partnership with like-minded nations to achieve this landmark agreement. The agreement recognized that domestic support policies resulted in increasing distortion of world agriculture trade and that this deterioration had to be halted and reversed to correct market imbalances. Summit leaders agreed to review the progress made on agriculture in the MTN Round when they meet in Toronto and to determine what tasks remain.

Thirdly, at Canada's suggestion, summit countries placed a high priority on the special problems encountered by the poorest debtor countries, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa. They called for special treatment for the world's poorest countries through the IMF and elsewhere. Since then Canada announced that it would contribute a further subsidized loan to the IMF's special facility for the poorest countries.

Finally, Canada achieved recognition of its priorities on

key political questions at the Venice Summit. The summit had fruitful and important discussions on East-West relations, on the issue of apartheid and on the encouragement of democratic rule in South Africa.

The Road to Toronto

The site of this year's "Canadian" summit will be the Metropolitan Toronto Convention Centre, literally in the shadow of the CN Tower. Toronto will thus be the focus of world attention for two and one-half days this June. Excluding official delegations, Canada is expecting that some 4 000 representatives of the national and international media will be at the summit to provide news coverage for the world.

The importance of the discussions that will be led by Prime Minister Mulroney has been underscored by the dramatic events this past year on international securities and foreign exchange markets. Canada will work to help achieve effective responses to the full range of summit issues: appropriate macro-economic policies; protectionism, and the need for a stronger GATT; the plight of the poorest developing countries; Third World indebtedness; the global environment; East-West relations; and other political questions.

The Declaration which will be issued at the conclusion of the summit will reflect the collective views of leaders on these global questions. It will probably focus to some extent at least on the key issue of economic policy co-ordination. Most importantly the Toronto Summit Declaration will reflect, along with the views of other summit countries, Canadian perspective on global problems, and Canadian approaches to their solution.