

Development
assistance

ficant test of our collective determination to manage an interdependent system.

Intense preoccupation with domestic economic concerns also confounds our attempts to persevere with development assistance programs. What should be our response to the inescapability of shrinking resources? How do we face the difficulties in generating increased development assistance flows?

We should all — national donors and multilateral agencies alike — rationalize deployment of available resources for maximum possible effect. The best results can be obtained from this process of compulsory selectivity only if donors focus on areas of special national expertise and resources. Canada, for example, has chosen to concentrate its efforts in three particular areas which draw upon considerable national experience. These are the food and agriculture area; energy, specifically petroleum exploration; and human resources.

Another response to shrinking resources should be to make full and timely use of every opportunity for enhanced co-operation. In this connection, I am disappointed with the lack of progress made on global negotiations since the Versailles Summit. Canada believes that the text of a compromise resolution worked out at Versailles represented a significant step in the effort to find a formula for launching global negotiations. I regret that it has not been possible to find a basis for real negotiations.

Economic problems are all the more vexing and potentially dangerous because they are bound up with serious political instability. Political instability produces consequences extending far beyond the immediate region in which conflict has erupted. In a shrinking world, local vulnerabilities and tragedies become the common concern of us all.

We have witnessed the long agony of Lebanon and, no more than ten days ago, the horror of the Palestinian massacre. These terrible events bring home to us in stark fashion the price that is paid when solutions to political problems are sought through military means, when feuds between nations, between peoples, between political factions, take the place of negotiations, when the instruments the international community has created to settle differences and prevent human suffering are misused or ignored.

Middle East

I want to emphasize Canada's strong support for Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and our firm endorsement of the Security Council's calls for the withdrawal of Israel from West Beirut and from the whole of Lebanon. No foreign forces should remain without the full consent of the government of Lebanon; otherwise stability will not return to that ravaged country.

Equally important, efforts must be intensified now to grapple with the problems at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict. More than ever, the tragic events of the past