

Commonwealth secretary-general Shridath Ramphal. "There may be no better times for the North unless there are better times for the South," he said. Mr. Ramphal also told the audience that Canada was one of too many countries that have "slipped rather badly" in their recognition of the interdependence of nations. At the same time, he praised Canada's record as "a symbol of internationalism" (*The Citizen*, December 15).

The recommendations contained in a report at the conclusion of the talks stressed emergency programs for helping developing countries through the current economic crisis. Economic collapse was seen as a very real possibility for many cash-starved nations. The Brandt Commission called on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to give immediate attention to the proposals in its emergency program, including:

- Authorization of a major new allocation of IMF funds, known as special drawing rights. The funds should be distributed according to the needs of developing countries, with the poorest of these getting special consideration;
- Increased borrowing by the IMF from capital markets and countries with a foreign exchange surplus;
- Increasing the resources of the IMF through at least a doubling of IMF quotas, these being the amounts of money individual countries contribute to the fund. A doubling of quotas would provide \$32 billion for IMF use over three years;
- Urging governments to waive the debts owed them by the world's least developed countries.

The Commission also recommended a world economic conference. Other recommendations on the broader issues of trade, energy and food, as well as new proposals on North-South negotiations would be issued in February in a paper, Mr. Brandt told reporters (*The Citizen*, December 16).

In the House of Commons December 15, Bob Ogle (NDP, Saskatoon East) asked Prime Minister Trudeau about the government response to the Brandt Commission recommendations. Mr. Trudeau answered that Canada has been responding and has been taking positions which the Brandt Commission recognizes as showing the proper

kind of leadership. "Naturally they would want us to do more," he said. "Mr. Brandt and his colleagues suggested the convening of a Cancun-type conference and were very profuse in their congratulations to Canada for having played a leading role in the Cancun Conference . . . We have been saying for a long while that the North-South problems are very grave and that they are linked not only to the peace of the world but to economic recovery. We have been saying that. We believe that, but it does not mean that we can give Mr. Brandt or any other organization a blank cheque on the future," the Prime Minister stated.

## OECD

### **December Report**

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) issued its economic outlook report on December 22. The report was not optimistic about an end to the global recession, predicting that unemployment in its twenty-four member countries would soon rise to a record of nearly thirty-five million. "There is little evidence to suggest that this mood of pessimism will dissipate soon," the report said. It observed that the Canadian economy is unlikely to recover significantly in the next eighteen months. Canada's seasonally-adjusted gross national product will show a drop of 5 percent for 1982, before recovering slightly to grow 1.25 percent in 1983. The report estimated Canada's unemployment rate will remain one of the highest. Inflation, though, will continue to fall more rapidly than expected earlier (*Globe and Mail*, December 23).

Canada's poor economic performance was the subject of questions in the House of Commons December 22 by Sinclair Stevens (PC, York-Peel). He told Finance Minister Marc Lalonde that the forecast showed that Canada's performance was the worst of any OECD country. Canada's predicted unemployment rate for the beginning of 1983 was 13.25 percent, compared with the OECD average of 9.5 percent, he said. Mr. Lalonde responded that the figures were just a forecast, and that he was more optimistic about Canada's economy.