

Experience is more and more underlining the central significance and compelling urgency of economic and social questions. Their importance is rightly symbolized, as the Secretary-General has reminded us, in the naming of this as the Decade of Development. It is now focussed on the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Canada has been honoured to serve on the preparatory Committee for that Conference.

The problems of economic development and those of trade expansion are fundamentally the same. This is easy to forget, when the development policies of individual countries so frequently call for reduced imports of particular commodities. But the purpose of development is to raise the level of real incomes. And, important though it is to reduce the barriers which limit trade, yet the main impetus to expanding trade must come from the improvement of incomes. In other words, economic development - raising real incomes - is itself the underlying basis for trade expansion.

Higher incomes within a country do not, however, automatically improve a country's ability to trade. The improved incomes must be related in the long run to increased international earnings through exports. Aid programs, essential as they are, are only a means of bridging a gap until export incomes increase.

For this reason, and for others, we should do all we can in this Assembly to lay foundations for the success of next year's Conference. That Conference will be concerned, obviously, with recommending practical ways of raising, and stabilizing the earnings that the less developed countries derive from exports of primary products. It is hardly less important to enlarge the earnings open to all countries through trade in manufactured goods. For that purpose, barriers to trade must be reduced and, in order to make this effective, measures may be needed to improve international currency arrangements and lessen the exposure of so many countries to balance-of-payments troubles.