

The developing countries fully appreciate that they bear the essential responsibility for their own development. Their own resources account for over eighty per cent of development expenditures. External concessional resource transfers, while important for some countries, are but a marginal addition for many. Decisions about the internal distribution of investment, trade-offs among competing alternatives, and allocations among economic and social programmes are choices which can only be made by national governments and authorities, within the international constraints of the economic system. The choices we can make collectively to contribute to the development process and complement the efforts of national governments are limited but important if we are to assist in the evolution of that economic system.

In part, the wisdom of our choices depends on a realistic assessment of the factors which determine what governments can do. Public support for domestic and foreign policies which promote the development process is essential. This is particularly so in industrial countries during periods of economic difficulty. Proposals which would restructure industrial production or trade patterns may more easily be endorsed if benefits to producer and consumer can be portrayed clearly. Decisions affecting investment in developing areas, or industrial adjustments, require active collaboration of decision-makers in both the private and public sector. Many proposals affecting the interests of developing countries involve decisions taken on the basis of commercial criteria where the role of government is limited to establishing appropriate conditions within which private businesses can operate.

The objectives of Canadian policy are to promote more rapid economic growth in those countries which need it, to encourage broadly based participation in the development process, and to contribute to an orderly evolution of the economic system through a variety of policy instruments. Only programmes that are practical and efficient will serve effectively the interests of both developing and developed countries.

In our view, the most important choice is to identify areas where developed and developing countries share common interests and then to promote those changes which will produce global benefits. We continue to believe that an open and dynamic system provides the most promising environment for economic growth and social progress.

Canada believes this Conference will be particularly significant in setting the atmosphere for international cooperation in the 1980's, in deciding whether as a community of nations we can continue to work together in harmony, or fly apart in acrimony and intolerance. Canada will do its full share to set a constructive tone. We look forward positively to the United Nations Special