

these leaders to agree on priority areas for concrete co-operation, including food and agriculture. Finally, they reaffirmed their commitment to seek the start of global negotiations on a mutually agreed upon basis within the United Nations framework. This renewed commitment paved the way for further progress in the area.

Global negotiations

Global negotiations are intended to examine key issues in the areas of trade and raw materials, food and agriculture, energy, money and finance, and development assistance. Canada has been a strong supporter of these negotiations as a means of dealing with complex and particularly pressing problems.

Although informal consultations on starting up global negotiations continued throughout 1981, serious negotiations only began again in New York after the North-South Summit in Cancun. Efforts focused on the drafting of a short General Assembly enabling resolution which would confirm certain principles basic to both industrialized and developing countries, and provide for global negotiations to begin in 1982. The problem that blocked progress on this resolution was disagreement on the respective roles to be played in the negotiations by existing international fora and by the proposed central body, or conference, for the global negotiations. Developing countries argued for a broad mandate for the central forum while developed Western countries, particularly the USA, sought to provide more specific protection for the mandates of such institutions as the IMF and GATT.

Commodities and Common Fund

Negotiations and discussions on the rules of trade governing several commodities continued under the auspices of UNCTAD in 1981. Agreement on a text for the Sixth international tin agreement, to come into effect on July 1, 1982, was a particularly significant achievement, both because its economic provisions will be important in helping to stabilize the tin market should the need arise and because the previous five international tin agreements in many ways acted as a model and as an example of what is achievable in commodity market stabilization through exporter-importer co-operation.

The first International natural rubber agreement which Canada had signed the year before and ratified in December of 1981, entered into force during the year. Discussions were also pursued in UNCTAD on regimes to cover trade in a variety of individual commodities including sugar, coffee, lead and zinc.

Canada signed the Common fund agreement in January 1981. The Common Fund for Commodities has two objectives to be met through two separate accounts: the first account of \$400 million (US) will contribute to the financing of international buffer stocks within associated international