A VIEW TO A SUMMIT

In today's global economy, actions by one country can have a dramatic impact on the world economic community. As the fabric of interdependent relationships forms an increasingly sensitive world economic "system," the need for co-operation among countries is more than ever essential.

Leaders from the world's seven major industrialized nations and the president of the Commission of the European Community will soon meet in Toronto, Canada, for the 14th annual Economic Summit. Beginning June 19, 1988, leaders will discuss current economic issues of global importance including economic policy co-ordination, trade questions and the international debt crisis, and will deal with major political issues facing them.

Canada's largest city, Toronto, will host this year's Economic Summit.

A member of the Economic Summit since 1976, Canada is hosting this important event for the second time, the 1981 summit having been held in Ottawa and nearby Montebello.

Canada is the only country that combines membership in the Commonwealth and la Francophonie with participation in the annual Economic Summit of major industrialized nations. The Economic Summit is in fact the third major international meeting hosted by Canada in the past 10 months. In September 1987, the second summit of la Francophonie was held in Quebec City. And the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) took place in Vancouver last October.

Economic Summits

The first Economic Summit meeting was held in Rambouillet at the invitation of the president of France in 1975. The following year, Canada joined France, the United States, the United Kingdom, West Germany, Japan and Italy at the summit table. The Commission of the European Community (EEC) has participated from 1977.

While economic summits are not decision-making forums, they present a rare opportunity for leaders to discuss at the highest level common problems personally and directly. In working together, the seven leaders can significantly affect world developments, both economic and political.

The continuing objective of the summits is to work towards compatible economic policies that will foster sustainable world growth and provide effective responses to economic problems as they arise. For example, oil price shocks, the debt burden of the poorest developing nations, and global recession have all figured on summit agendas.

The annual Economic Summit is the most visible element of a broad, complex process of international consultation and co-operation in the management of the world economy. Its deliberations are closely linked to work done in other international economic institutions, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Group of Seven Finance Ministers (G7).

Although the summit agendas are primarily economic in character, political and other issues are discussed as well by leaders and foreign ministers. Progress on important world issues is sought and new policy initiatives are generated. At