

broader events of the last three years have made us all very aware of both the realities of the fundamental challenge facing mankind in a resource-finite world and the inherent, painful complexities of change. As political leaders we have all recognized that new decisions and policies are inevitably the product of a complex and permanent two-way traffic. We shall not make the progress we must make if we, developed and developing countries alike, bind ourselves absolutely to the briefs I see before most of us around the table. The challenge before us is to evolve beyond these set positions. However, we equally cannot reorder the world in three days.

A failure to meet the challenge and find the appropriate middle ground would, to my mind, represent a major failure for all countries, developed and developing, to promote an orderly evolution in the area of international economic relations. This evolution is now a necessary, permanent dynamic for us all, which we should face squarely. Inaction brings escalating penalties. There is no doubt in my mind that we must pursue, and indeed promote, this dynamic, not only in this conference but in many other international forums, especially those within the UN system, and with the full and equitable involvement of all segments of our populations.

This conference's immediate genesis is in the world-wide economic and even social difficulties of the past years, from which we have yet to fully emerge. These events have made us all even more conscious of the growing interdependence of nations. We are not, I hope, sharply delineated "North and South", but rather neighbours on one planet, and as such jointly responsible for mankind's future well-being. We are gaining new perceptions on how we should and can interact, on how to find a new equilibrium between nations and individuals, on how to meet the challenge of sharing. What we should add over the next three days, as we bring this Conference on International Economic Co-operation to a successful close, is a further commitment of concern. Commitments at a global level that we already accept nationally must not rest on an economic power relationship alone; increasingly they must find their rationale in certain moral imperatives, in social justice. Our task is to record our permanent commitment to these objectives and a sustained dialogue to seek continuing advances in these areas.

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