

declared needs of a particular group of LDCs. Canada has participated in past debt negotiations. We would welcome a generalized consensus view that a shared adherence to principles, coupled with better, stronger arrangements, would provide the best guarantee for positive international response to this kind of difficulty.

Another new step has been taken to help Africa. The inadequate infrastructure of the African continent has of course been a subject of concern and a focus of development efforts for some time now. Within this conference, we have all agreed to make a more systematic effort to concert our approach and to mobilize new efforts. The Canadian Government expects to spend approximately \$140 million on African infrastructure projects in 1977-78 including transport and communications, an amount which does not include the substantial contributions to agriculture and rural development. We endorse the concept of a decade for African transport and communications which would be aimed at the broad infrastructure needs of the African continent.

The last milestone which I have identified is perhaps the most important. It was the *raison d'être* for this conference. For the first time, the energy dimension has taken its rightful place in the international dialogue on important economic questions. We are able to express our satisfaction with what CIEC has already achieved:

- a) Increased understanding of the nature of the energy challenge,
- b) Agreement on the need to initiate and reinforce efforts on additional and alternative energy sources,
- c) Agreement on the need to cooperate in avoiding unnecessary economic disruption,
- d) Appreciation that increased flows of capital from international financial institutions, especially the World Bank, would help energy development in oil-importing LDCs.

I might add that Canada will contribute its full share to any increased IBRD capitalization which will be required for these efforts.

I have seen, and welcome, evidence in the oil market over the course of CIEC on growing sensitivity on