

appreciation of the concerns of others, an altered sense of priorities, and a heightened feeling of urgency, the Summits will have achieved - and will continue to achieve - a great deal.

One of the prerequisites to real movement on North-South issues is, of course, the acknowledgement of interdependence. At the meetings I attended, there was, I thought, a growing and genuine recognition on all sides that domestic economic problems cannot be resolved in isolation from the economic difficulties of others. Despite obvious pressures to the contrary in this difficult period, I believe that this perception will - and must prevail. As John Donne wrote in the seventeenth century "No man is an island, entire of itself". Neither is any country.

If the art of governing is the juggling of priorities, then the process of Summits has also been a significant tool in moving North-South issues to the forefront of Governments' attention. Preparations for meetings involving Heads of State or Government encourage those Governments to reassess their policies in relation to the issues expected at the Summit. While such periodic attention might conceivably occur in any event, the imminence of Summit deadlines - to paraphrase Dr. Johnson on hanging - certainly has the effect of concentrating minds most wonderfully.

Impetus to on-going negotiations is the third potential contribution of Summit meetings - but perhaps the most difficult to judge. Certainly in my view, there have been achievements in this regard. The Ottawa Summit, for example, emphasized priorities which were then effectively pursued at the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and at that on the Least Developed.

Many of you, however, may pin your ultimate assessment of summitry on its effect on efforts to launch Global Negotiations. I can indeed testify that this issue, more than any other, has dominated the North-South agenda - both bilaterally and multilaterally - over the past year.

I need not rehearse the long negotiating history of this initiative since it was first proposed in the autumn of 1979. It has perhaps been one of the most difficult - and certainly most frustrating - experiences for countries interested in advancing North-South discussions. In the past year the international community has moved slowly - if not always too surely - to a point where, in Canada's view, compromise was, and is, ripe.