



MISSION PERMANENTE D'OBSERVATION  
DE LA SUISSE AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES

RAPPORT DE LA DELEGATION SUISSE A LA  
18E SESSION EXTRAORDINAIRE DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE  
CONSACREE A LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE INTERNATIONALE,  
EN PARTICULIER A LA RELANCE DE LA CROISSANCE ECONOMIQUE  
ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DANS LES PAYS EN DEVELOPPEMENT

New York, 23 avril - 1er mai 1990

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FA, HAE,  
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## 1. Remarques générales sur la Session extraordinaire

Après de longues et difficiles négociations de son Comité spécial, l'Assemblée générale a adopté une Déclaration sur la coopération économique internationale (annexe 1). Ceux qui attendaient un document court, simple et compréhensible, moderne et novateur dans sa présentation de lignes directrices devant guider les politiques économiques des années 90 auront été déçus. La Déclaration se distingue par sa longueur, sa lourdeur et n'a pas échappé à la langue de bois onusienne, résultat de compromis et arbitrages concluant de longues négociations sur des phrases ou des éléments de phrases. Elle devait être adoptée par consensus : qui dit consensus entre 160 Etats membres entend des compromis inévitables nuisant à la qualité du texte. De plus, son contenu économique est loin d'être réformateur ou révolutionnaire, et souvent va en-deça du Document final de la CNUCED VII.

En revanche, un certain optimisme est permis si l'on considère ce document dans la perspective d'une déclaration politique prise dans une institution telle que les Nations Unies, où la problématique économique a toujours connu un statut particulier, voire difficile. Quel a été en effet le suivi des nombreuses résolutions de l'Assemblée générale sur les différents problèmes économiques relevant de la compétence d'autres institutions multilatérales internationales ? Ainsi, depuis deux ans, la problématique de la dette y est à l'ordre du jour, mais le consensus s'est heurté à l'opposition des Etats-Unis, voire du Japon; ou encore, l'environnement a été abordé avec la plus grande méfiance par les PED qui craignaient toute forme de conditionalité économique.

Parmi les éléments positifs dans une optique politique on relèvera notamment : l'adoption de la déclaration par consensus; le niveau élevé de la participation au débat plénier et le ton conciliant des déclarations prononcées par les responsables politiques; des négociations empreintes d'un esprit de bonne volonté, de confiance et modération; l'accent porté plus sur la substance que sur des pamphlets idéologiques; une convergence accrue sur une approche commune et globale en matière de coopération économique internationale, approche qui dépasse désormais le court terme; la référence, dans une déclaration consacrée à l'économie, aux droits de l'homme, ainsi qu'aux institutions démocratiques et pluralistes.

Des éléments positifs existent aussi dans une optique économique. La dette doit être plus particulièrement mise en exergue : pour la première fois en effet, l'Assemblée générale a pris une décision par consensus sur cette problématique; bien que réservant les compétences des Institutions de Bretton Woods, les Etats-Unis ont permis un progrès considérable (à l'exception de la substance, où le Trésor a veillé, au risque de provoquer une crise, à neutraliser le contenu du paragraphe concerné). Tous les Etats se sont également accordés sur l'importance des politiques nationales et de l'adaptabilité aux mutations de l'économie internationale (donc référence indirecte aux politiques d'ajustement structurel), de l'environnement et des ressources

humaines. Les compétences des institutions multilatérales ont été, en tout cas implicitement, reconnues.

Ce jugement positif permet-il d'augurer de l'avenir économique des Nations Unies de façon optimiste ? Ce serait aller trop vite en besogne. Même si l'ONU est reconnue comme la seule instance où la communauté des nations peut traiter globalement de toutes les questions, beaucoup dépendra de la volonté politique de ces nations. Celle-ci pourra être vérifiée lors de l'examen constant auquel sera soumise l'application de la Déclaration, ainsi que prévu par son article 38. Les Etats-Unis disposeront-ils encore de la carotte et du bâton - dont ils jouissaient avec la volonté des PED de les faire adhérer à un consensus - leur permettant d'obtenir les compromis les plus favorables ? Ou leurs partenaires en développement seront-ils encore empreints de cette approche nouvelle de la coopération économique internationale ? La réponse à ces questions déterminera profondément le rôle politique que les Nations Unies joueront dans la problématique économique.

## 2. Generaldebatte (\*)

An der Generaldebatte haben ein Staatspräsident, ein Ministerpräsident, drei Vizeministerpräsidenten, 39 Aussenminister und 16 Aussenvizeminister, 20 Minister und 5 Vizeminister, 43 Delegationsleiter sowie 5 Vertreter von Beobachterstaaten teilgenommen.

Seitens der Industrielländer wurden keine bedeutenden, neuen Initiativen angekündigt oder vorgeschlagen. Generell wird auf die veränderte weltwirtschaftliche und politische Situation hingewiesen und als Folgerung daraus auf die Notwendigkeit eines realitätsbezogenen Dialogs und einer Wirtschaftszusammenarbeit auf der Basis einer gemeinsamen Beurteilung der Lage. Häufigste Stichworte sind Osteuropa, Diversion, Entschuldung, Umwelt und die ärmsten Entwicklungsländer. Unseres Wissens zum ersten Mal hat sich auch die EG voll hinter das Ziel von 0.7% BSP für die öffentliche Entwicklungshilfe gestellt.

Den Wortmeldungen der einzelnen Entwicklungsländer wurden Erklärungen der G77 (Bolivien) und der Blockfreien (Yugoslawien) vorgelegt. Auch hier werden das veränderte Umfeld und die prinzipielle Gültigkeit der Marktwirtschaft anerkannt. Damit verbunden werden allerdings altbekannte und ausschliesslich an die Industrieländer gerichtete Forderungen: Schuldenreduktion, Zinsreduktion, Protektionismus-Abbau, Rohstoffpreisstabilisierung, Entwicklungshilfe. Interessant und bedauerlich ist, dass selbst IWF-Musterschüler und "erfolgreiche" Entwicklungsländer von einer verlorenen Dekade sprechen. Das Marktwirtschafts-Modell habe versagt (Ghana), die Entwicklungsländer hätten vom Wachstum der OECD-Länder nicht profitiert (Tunesien), Rohstoffpreisstabilisierung sei die Lösung ihrer Wirtschaftsprobleme (Malaysia, Thailand) und der Protektionismus in den Industrieländern gewinne

(\*) Die Erklärungen Irlands (für die EG), der Vereinigten Staaten, Kanadas, Boliviens (für die G77), der UdSSR und der VR China finden sich in den Beilagen 2 bis 7.

ständig an Boden, währenddem die Entwicklungsländer ihre Märkte öffneten (Algerien). Pakistan verlangte, dass auch die nur moderat verschuldeten Länder von der Entschuldungsstrategie profitieren müssten.

Die im allgemeinen auf vizeministerieller Ebene vertretenen Länder Zentral- und Osteuropas legen Wert auf Eigenverantwortung, Marktwirtschaft, Liberalisierung des Welthandels, Technologietransfer und auf die Verbesserung im Umweltschutz. Die Sowjetunion berichtet von ihren weitgehenden legislativen und regulatorischen Veränderungen und verlangt eine Ummünzung der Friedensdividende in Entwicklungshilfe und Technologietransfer; für die UNO wird eine neue Rolle als Standard- und Wirtschaftskoordinationsorgan gefordert.

Staatssekretär Blankart gab die Schweizer Erklärung (Beilage 8) als erstes Beobachterland am 24. April 1990 ab. Dieselbe wurde von verschiedenen Mitgliedsländern aus allen Lagern positiv aufgenommen. Mit der Betonung der für die ganze Weltwirtschaft bedeutsamen Ost-West-Entspannung sowie der für jeden Fortschritt unabdingbaren individuellen Freiheit entspricht unsere Wortmeldung den Anliegen zahlreicher anderer Delegationen und insbesondere auch der G77- und der Blockfreien-Erklärung.

### 3. Comité préparatoire / Comité spécial

En fonction depuis plus d'un an, le Comité préparatoire devait s'acquitter de plusieurs tâches : organisation du travail de la Session extraordinaire, règlement de diverses questions de procédure (notamment voies et moyens de la participation d'Etats non-membres) et préparation d'un projet sous-tendant les travaux du Comité plénier ad hoc pour soumettre une déclaration à l'Assemblée générale. Le Comité préparatoire a réussi à s'acquitter pleinement des deux premières tâches; en revanche, il n'a pu que transmettre au Comité spécial les soumissions du G77 et du Canada accompagnées des commentaires des autres protagonistes. Une telle lenteur et lourdeur des travaux s'expliquent de plusieurs manières :

- l'actuelle Session l'a encore démontré, les acteurs savent que les dénouements n'interviennent que dans les derniers jours et qu'au besoin, les pendules doivent être arrêtées ou les délais prolongés,
- tous les protagonistes ont été surpris par la rapidité des évolutions, notamment en Europe centrale et orientale : les données ont été considérablement modifiées, ce qui s'est répercuté sur l'approche économique et les priorités à fixer,
- les initiateurs de la Session extraordinaire, le G77, se devaient de montrer la marche à suivre en présentant un projet de déclaration,
- en tout état de cause, l'hétérogénéité des intérêts du G77 ne lui permet pratiquement plus de réagir à des propositions d'autres pays ou groupes de pays : il est condamné à s'entendre, de plus en plus péniblement, sur ses propres

propositions.

C'est pourquoi le G77 s'est employé dès le début à abaisser le statut du projet canadien afin de permettre la discussion en priorité de son propre texte. De son côté, le Canada avait dû présenter, dans des délais très brefs, un texte de compromis reprenant les éléments positifs du projet des 77, et donc acceptables pour les pays industrialisés, et complété par les idées développées dans le cadre de l'OCDE.

Le projet du G77 avait positivement surpris parce que, dans l'ensemble, son ton était modéré et qu'il reconnaissait certaines évolutions dans les approches des politiques économiques : par exemple les changements importants intervenus dans l'économie mondiale et la nécessité d'en tirer les conséquences; la nécessité pour les PED de limiter les tendances inflationnistes et de favoriser ainsi l'épargne nationale; l'encouragement à l'investissement national et étranger; la responsabilité de chaque Etat pour sa politique économique; la croissance nécessaire pour la protection de l'environnement; ou le système commercial multilatéral. En revanche, le projet contenait de nombreux points négatifs : responsabilité exclusive des pays industrialisés pour le démantèlement du protectionnisme, le désendettement des PED, ou la stabilisation des prix des produits de base; pas de référence à l'importance des politiques nationales; ou encore pauvreté croissante résultant des relations économiques internationales et de l'ajustement.

A l'instigation du Royaume-Uni, la CEE présenta un texte très court. Surprenant les autres pays occidentaux qui n'avaient pas été consultés auparavant, cette proposition rouvrit la discussion sur la base des trois documents. Les positions étant par trop divergentes pour permettre une issue positive, le Secrétariat présenta un amalgame des trois textes ainsi que des propositions d'amendement faites par les délégations en suivant un plan déjà agréé par le Comité (introduction; évaluation des années 80; objectifs et perspectives pour les années 90; engagements et politiques par la coopération économique internationale). Ce volumineux document avait certes le mérite de présenter mécaniquement toutes les positions, mais ne semblait guère viser un agencement "synthétique" de la déclaration. C'est pourquoi le Président du Comité spécial décida à la fin de la 3e journée d'user de ses prérogatives en rédigeant un "papier du Président" qui réunirait plus succinctement la substantifique moëlle des diverses propositions.

La discussion fut ainsi relancée, d'abord au niveau du Bureau, puis en groupe restreint et enfin en Comité. Les délais (nuit du vendredi au samedi) ne purent pas être respectés de sorte que trois jours et trois nuits supplémentaires furent nécessaires à une conclusion positive des négociations. Des trésors de patience et de diplomatie permirent finalement de débloquer la discussion embourbée sur deux points. Sur la dette d'une part, la délégation américaine ayant dû, sur instructions du Trésor, durcir sa position : un groupe de travail reprit les négociations le dimanche après-midi et les ultimes concessions furent obtenues grâce à la médiation du Président de l'Assemblée générale dans la

nuit de lundi à mardi. Sur la science et la technologie d'autre part, la CEE s'opposant avec véhémence à une proposition du G77 sur l'accès à la technologie des pays développés.

La Déclaration finale adoptée par consensus s'articule autour de quatre chapitres :

- **introduction** : notamment, résolution des Etats membres à parvenir à un consensus mondial en vue de promouvoir la coopération économique internationale au service d'une croissance soutenue et viable de l'économie mondiale; responsabilité de chaque pays pour sa politique économique de développement, en fonction de sa situation et de ses conditions particulières.
- **évaluation des années 80** : apparition d'une convergence de vues progressive sur la formulation des politiques économiques; diversité dans les situations et évolutions, principaux problèmes (déséquilibres, endettement, transferts négatifs de ressources, produits de base, ...), Europe de l'Est; ...
- **objectifs et perspectives pour les années 90** : défi le plus important dans la relance de la croissance et du développement dans les PED, à aborder dans une optique d'interdépendance et d'intégration accrues de l'économie mondiale; libéralisation du commerce international, désendettement, environnement, ~~responsabilité propre de chaque Etat et responsabilité commune;~~ intégration des pays de l'Europe orientale dans l'économie mondiale; faim et pauvreté;...
- **engagements et politiques pour la coopération économique internationale** : efforts concertés de tous les pays dans une optique de développement à long terme (allant au-delà des ajustements à court terme); solution durable et large au problème de la dette; APD (0,7 %, dont 0,15 % pour les PMA); science et technologie; environnement; institutions financières internationales (ressources adéquates); amélioration du fonctionnement des marchés des produits de base (meilleures stabilité et prévisibilité); réduction des dépenses militaires et études pour affecter les ressources ainsi dégagées à des mécanismes consacrés au financement du développement (proposition préalable : création d'un Fonds ad hoc des Nations Unies); système commercial multilatéral ouvert et crédible; appui à l'intégration de l'Europe orientale à l'économie internationale (mais priorité à l'aide internationale au développement des PED); rôle des Nations Unies; examen de l'application de la Déclaration.

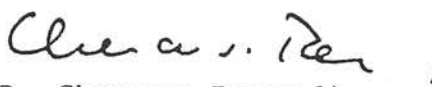
L'article 26 consacré à la dette a été renégocié dans le cadre d'un groupe de travail ad hoc où le Japon a joué un rôle très en vue. Les PED ont abandonné toutes leurs prétentions, montrant leur désir de permettre aux Etats-Unis de se joindre au consensus. Toutefois les PMA ont fait les plus grandes difficultés avant d'accepter la suppression de la phrase qui leur était consacrée ("some write-off of ODA debt of the LDC's or measures with similar effect have been undertaken : this practice should be broadened in application and be fully

- 6 -

accomplished").

La science et la technologie (art. 28) ont donné lieu à d'âpres négociations. Le compromis final consiste en une phrase reprise de la résolution 3362 de la 7e Session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale. Les PED avaient proposé un second segment à la dernière phrase de cet article ("and should give them the freest and fullest access to technologies whose transfer is not subject to private decision"). Les CE s'y sont violemment opposées et certains membres du G77 (Brésil, Inde,...) ont réalisé les risques d'une telle phrase : de la sorte, cette proposition a pu être retirée.

L'AMBASSADEUR

  
(D. Chenaux-Repond)

Annexes : ment.



## General Assembly

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Eighteenth special session  
Agenda item 9

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION  
OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIESReport of the Ad Hoc Committee of the  
Eighteenth Special SessionRapporteur: Mr. Samuel R. INSANALLY (Guyana)

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 23 April 1990, the General Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee of the Eighteenth Special Session and allocated to the Ad Hoc Committee the consideration of agenda item 9, entitled "International economic co-operation, in particular the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries". The Assembly also elected by acclamation Mr. Constantine D. Zepos (Greece) as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee.
2. Pursuant to a recommendation of the Preparatory Committee for the Eighteenth Special Session, the General Assembly decided that the other officers of the Ad Hoc Committee would be Mr. Ahmed Chezal (Tunisia), Mr. Wang Baoliu (China) and Mr. Edouard Kukan (Czechoslovakia) as Vice-Chairmen and Mr. Samuel R. Insanally (Guyana) as Rapporteur.
3. The Ad Hoc Committee held 5 meetings, on 23, 24, 25, 28 and 30 April 1990. An account of the Ad Hoc Committee's discussions is contained in the relevant summary records (A/S-18/AC.1/SR.1-5). A number of informal meetings were also held.
4. The Committee had before it the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Eighteenth Special Session (A/S-18/7 (Parts I and II)).
5. At its 1st meeting, the Committee heard statements by the Rector of the United Nations University, the Deputy Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture



A/S-18/14

English

Page 2

Organization of the United Nations. A representative of a non-governmental organization also made a statement on behalf of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (see A/S-13/AC.1/SR.1).

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 24 April, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to establish an open-ended drafting group to review the texts submitted to it by the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly, devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries.

7. At its 3rd meeting, on 25 April, the Committee heard statements by the representatives of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and of the World Bank (see A/S-18/AC.1/SR.3).

## II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

### A. Draft proposal submitted by the Chairman (A/S-18/AC.1/L.2)

8. On 26 April, a draft proposal submitted by the Chairman was circulated to the Committee (A/S-18/AC.1/L.2).

9. At the 4th meeting, on 28 April, the Chairman introduced <sup>CC 4L</sup>revisions to the draft proposal, submitted as a result of informal consultations.

10. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Norway (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community), the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China and Poland.

11. At the 5th meeting, on 30 April, the Chairman introduced oral revisions to the draft proposal, submitted as a result of further informal consultations.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft proposal (see para. 17, draft resolution).

13. Statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Uganda, the United States of America, Bolivia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Tunisia, Ethiopia, Ireland (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community), the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China, Norway (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Mali (on behalf of the African States), the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (on behalf of the Eastern European States), Canada, Venezuela (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States), the United Arab Emirates (on behalf of the Arab Group), Japan, France, Sweden (on behalf of the Western European and other States) and Pakistan (on behalf of the Asian States). The Chairman also made a statement (see A/S-18/AC.1/SR.5).

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A/S-18/14

English

Page 3

B. Draft resolution A/S-18/AC.1/L.3/Rev.1

14. At the 4th meeting, the representative of Bolivia introduced, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, a draft resolution entitled "Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/S-18/AC.1/L.3/Rev.1). The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 42/177 of 11 December 1987, by which it decided to convene the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1990, and all other relevant resolutions,

"1. Decides that the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990, should be preceded by a two-day meeting for consultations among senior officials on 30 and 31 August 1990;

"2. Expresses its deep appreciation to the Government of France for its generous offer to host the Second Conference;

"3. Notes with appreciation the decisions of the Governments of Bangladesh, Finland, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Niger and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to host preparatory meetings for the Conference;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to invite the following to the Conference:

"(a) All States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies;

"(b) Representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate, in the capacity of observers, in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices to participate in the Conference in that capacity, in accordance with Assembly resolutions 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974 and 43/177 of 15 December 1988;

"(c) Representatives of the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity in its region to participate in the Conference in the capacity of observers, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3280 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974;

"(d) All executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as other organs of the United Nations;

"(e) Intergovernmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which should be represented by observers at the Conference;

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"(f) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic and Social Council, which should be represented by observers at the Conference;

"5. Welcomes decision 88/30 of 1 July 1988 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to provide assistance, through the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries, to finance the expenses of representatives of least developed countries to participate fully in the preparatory process of the Conference and in the Conference itself, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure effective participation of representatives of least developed countries in the Conference and the two-day meeting for consultations by financing from the above-mentioned fund the travel expenses of three representatives from each least developed country."

15. At its 5th meeting, following a proposal by the representative of Bolivia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly defer consideration of the draft resolution to a meeting of the Assembly at its forty-fourth session (see para. 18, draft decision).

16. At the same meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted its report (A/S-18/AC.1/L.1), as orally revised by the Rapporteur.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE EIGHTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION

17. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Eighteenth Special Session recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries

The General Assembly

Adopts the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, annexed to the present resolution.

## ANNEX

Declaration

We, the States Members of the United Nations,

Solemnly proclaim our strong commitment to a global consensus to promote urgently international economic co-operation for sustained growth of the world economy and, in particular, to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries so as to realize the basic right of all human beings to a life free from hunger, poverty, ignorance, disease and fear. To that end, we adopt the present Declaration.

1. This is a time of positive transformation in international relations. The reduction in international political tensions, the increasing integration of the world economy and the broad movement towards economic and political reform will create an opportunity for strengthening international economic co-operation based on the need to provide just and equal opportunities to all peoples to enable them to develop their full potential.

2. We strongly affirm the need to revitalize growth and development in the developing countries and to address together the problems of abject poverty and hunger that continue to afflict far too many people in the world. The international community has a responsibility to give strong support to the efforts of the developing countries to solve their grave economic and social problems through the creation of a favourable international economic environment.

3. In an increasingly interdependent world, the developing countries should play an important role in the growth and expansion of the world economy for the progress and prosperity of all peoples.

4. Each country is responsible for its own economic policies for development, in accordance with its specific situations and conditions, and for the life and well-being of all its citizens. National policies also need to take fully into account the obligations of all countries to international economic co-operation.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE 1980s

5. In the 1980s, progress in developed and developing countries has been uneven. The decade was marked by an increasing gap between those groups of countries as well as by relatively slow growth and large global financial and trade imbalances. Developed market-oriented countries have succeeded to a large extent in controlling inflation and in maintaining sustained, though modest, growth. However, many countries, particularly developing ones, have encountered serious difficulties in their attempt to adapt to structural changes, to benefit from the economic growth of the industrialized countries and to promote the well-being of their citizens.

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6. External and fiscal imbalances in some of the countries whose economies have the largest impact on the world economy have contributed to international monetary instability and led to higher interest rates. In the late 1980s, such imbalances have started to narrow; none the less they remain large.

7. For many developing countries, the 1980s have been viewed as a decade lost for development. Living conditions in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, and in parts of Asia, have deteriorated, and economic and social infrastructure has eroded, impairing stability and prospects for growth and development. Other developing countries have been able to achieve economic and social progress.

8. The position of developing countries in international trade and finance has substantially weakened, further widening the gap between those countries and the developed ones. External indebtedness emerged as a main factor in the economic stalemate in the developing countries. Their capacity to service debt was seriously weakened as interest rates grew and terms of trade deteriorated. This problem has contributed to the fall in investment and the cessation of new financial flows. A long-term downward trend in the prices of commodities had devastating effects for commodity-dependent developing countries.

9. As a result, there was a large net transfer of resources from the developing to the developed countries, depriving the former of much needed resources for development. This made the process of adjustment more difficult and complicated the tasks of coping with its social consequences and obtaining the necessary political support for reform.

10. Eastern European countries were not appropriately involved in the world economic system. Their need for comprehensive reform and transformation grew and, in the late 1980s, fundamental political and economic changes began to take place. These countries face problems of adaptation to the scientific, technological and structural changes taking place in the world economy.

11. As the world changes around us, we must respond positively. The 1980s marked the beginning of fundamental rethinking towards the achievement of economic development. A gradual convergence of views on economic policy, including the need for sound macro-economic policies and enhanced competition, is emerging. Flexibility, creativity, innovation and openness must be integral parts of our economic systems.

#### CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE 1990s

12. The most important challenge for the 1990s is the revitalization of economic growth and social development in the developing countries, which calls for sustained growth of the world economy and favourable external conditions. This major challenge has to be addressed in the context of the increasing interdependence and integration in the world economy.

13. It will be essential to stem the increasing marginalization of the least developed countries and to reactivate their growth and development through comprehensive national action and international support measures.

14. Finding an early and durable solution to the international debt problems, meeting the increasing needs for development finance, creating an open and equitable trading system and facilitating the diversification and modernization of the economies of developing countries, particularly those that are commodity-dependent, are conditions for the revitalization of growth and development in the developing countries in the 1990s and require continued concerted efforts.

15. There is a pressing need to improve the international economic environment in order to ensure the success of national policies. Countries can then take advantage of the major advances in science and technology and the globalization of markets and thereby enhance their human capital and modernize their economies.

16. Economic development must be environmentally sound and sustainable. The deterioration of the environment is a cause of grave concern for all countries. Growing environmental problems, such as pollution, desertification, deforestation and climate change, increasingly pose a serious threat to the future growth of the world economy.

17. Countries have to adapt their national policies to facilitate open exchange and flexible responses to the changing world economy. Effective national policies have a critical role to play in achieving sustained, non-inflationary economic growth in all countries. Such policies should be supportive of investment as well as of efficient allocation and mobilization of resources in order to achieve durable growth.

18. The eradication of poverty and hunger, greater equity in income distribution and the development of human resources remain major challenges everywhere. Economic and social progress requires that growth be broadly based, offering equal opportunities to all people, both women and men, to participate fully in economic, social and political activities.

19. There is a need to integrate the Eastern European countries into the world economy and the international economic system. This should generate positive impulses for world trade and development.

20. The revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries will have to be undertaken against the backdrop of these opportunities and challenges. Our collective efforts will be needed to ensure that the rapidly changing realities result in a positive transformation in favour of the economic development of all countries, particularly of the developing countries.

COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES FOR INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

21. Reactivation of economic growth and development in the developing countries will require a concerted and committed effort by all countries. The present opportunity to restore a long-term approach to development and move beyond short-term adjustment must be seized. The Members of the United Nations will endeavour to take all necessary steps to reverse the adverse trends of the 1980s, address the challenges of the 1990s and move into a more productive decade. Such actions should take into account the responsibility of each country for its own development and should be in accordance with its capacity and its impact on the international economy.

22. The major industrialized countries influence world economic growth and the international economic environment profoundly. They should continue their efforts to promote sustained growth and to narrow imbalances in a manner than can benefit other countries. The co-ordination of macro-economic policies should take full account of the interests and concerns of all countries, particularly the developing countries. Efforts should be made to enhance the effectiveness of multilateral surveillance aimed at correcting existing external and fiscal imbalances, promoting non-inflationary sustainable growth, lowering real rates of interest, and making exchange rates more stable and markets more accessible.

23. In accordance with their legislation, development objectives and national priorities, developing countries should continue to work towards keeping control over inflationary tendencies, promoting domestic savings, achieving favourable conditions for domestic and foreign investment, modernizing their economies, and increasing their international competitiveness.

24. However, economic policies should have as their ultimate objective the betterment of the human condition and the enhancement of the contribution of all persons to development. The full utilization of human resources and the recognition of human rights stimulate creativity, innovation and initiative.

25. A primary objective must be to respond to the needs of and maximize the potential of all members of society. Health, nutrition, housing, population policies and other social services are a key to both improving individual welfare and successful development. Education and training, which must be available to all, are essential for improving the quality of human resources and for sustaining economic growth. The international community should support efforts to arrest the current escalation of extreme poverty and hunger. It is essential to reverse the present deterioration of this grave situation.

26. A durable and broad solution of the external debt problems of the developing debtor countries should continue to be given urgent attention, and the serious debt-servicing problems of some other countries should be further addressed with a view to an early solution. Recent initiatives and measures to reduce the stock and service of debt or to provide debt relief for developing countries should be broadly implemented. Relief measures should aim at the resumption of vigorous growth and development in these countries and should address all types of bilateral debt of debtor developing countries. Serious consideration should be given to continuing to work towards a growth-oriented solution of the problems of developing countries with serious debt-servicing problems, including those whose debt is mainly to official creditors or to multilateral institutions.

27. Substantial concessional resources will be called for to enable developing countries, especially the least developed ones, to cope with the challenges of the 1990s. Developed countries should implement the undertakings they have made to attain the agreed international target of devoting 0.7 per cent of gross national product to official development assistance, and 0.15 per cent to the least developed countries. Developed countries should enhance the quantity and quality of their aid. Appropriate additional resources for the least developed countries should be considered at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. The special development problems and needs of the island and land-locked developing countries should also be addressed.

28. Scientific and technological capability is increasingly important in the development of developing countries. Developed countries and international organizations should support the efforts of developing countries to create and develop endogenous capacities in this area.

29. The current threat to the environment is the common concern of all. All countries should take effective actions for the protection and enhancement of the environment in accordance with their respective capacities and responsibilities, and taking into account the specific needs of developing countries. As the major sources of pollution, the developed countries have the main responsibility for taking appropriate measures urgently. The economic growth and development of developing countries are essential in order to address problems of the degradation and protection of the environment. New and additional financial resources will have to be channelled to developing countries. Effective modalities for favourable access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies, in particular to developing countries, including on concessional and preferential terms, should be examined.

30. Multilateral financial institutions should be in a position to respond to the increasing development needs of developing countries in the 1990s. They should be provided with adequate resources to support long-term development, to facilitate structural reform and to finance programmes to alleviate the adverse social consequences of adjustment for poor and vulnerable groups.



31. Countries should seek to reduce expenditures for military purposes, thereby opening up the possibility of enhanced spending on social and economic development for the benefit of all countries, in particular the developing countries. In this context, the feasibility of channelling some of these reductions through financial mechanisms for development should be explored.

32. An open and credible multilateral trading system is essential for the promotion of growth and development. Any present or future trends towards unilateralism, bilateralism and the erosion of the multilateral trading system must be arrested. Protectionism should be resisted everywhere; commitments to standstill and roll-back of protectionism should be honoured. It is vitally important that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations result in a balanced outcome, preserving and strengthening the multilateral trading system, enabling trade liberalization and increased market access for the exports of developing countries. The principles underlying the multilateral trade system should be reaffirmed, and international organizations in the area of multilateral trade should be strengthened as a part of the process of attaining these objectives.

33. Commodity exports will continue to play a key role in the economies of most developing countries and to make a crucial contribution to export earnings and investment. There is a need for better functioning of commodity markets and more stable and predictable conditions. Diversification helps the developing countries to increase and stabilize their export earnings. All countries and multilateral institutions should undertake measures to support these endeavours.

34. Regional economic integration is important in expanding trade and investment in developing countries. Developing countries should strive to promote economic integration and strengthen economic and technical co-operation among themselves. These efforts should be encouraged and supported by the developed countries, as well as by the international organizations.

35. Eastern European countries should be supported in their efforts to integrate themselves into the international economy, including, as appropriate, their adhesion to international institutions. This will benefit their own people and the rest of the world; it must not detract from the high priority placed on international development co-operation with the developing countries. Their integration will strengthen the role of Eastern Europe as a dynamic trade partner and as a market and source of technology.

36. The United Nations system has a large rôle to play in international co-operation for revitalizing development in the 1990s. All its Member States have a responsibility for making it more effective and efficient. The United Nations is a unique forum in which the community of nations can address all issues in an integrated manner. Its many specialized agencies make an indispensable contribution to development. They have a major responsibility in the great task of revitalizing growth and development in the 1990s.

37. Member States agree to work for fruitful results at the forthcoming Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in the elaboration of a new international development strategy, the World Summit for Children, the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 1991, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992, and the international meeting on population in 1994.

38. The States Members of the United Nations pledge themselves solemnly to advance the multilateral dialogue, to respond to the challenge and commitments contained in the present Declaration through national policies and enhanced international co-operation and to keep the implementation of the Declaration under political review.

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18. The Ad Hoc Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

The General Assembly decides to defer consideration of the draft resolution 1/ entitled "Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" to a meeting of the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session to be convened on 17 May 1990.

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1/ A/S-18/AC.1/L.3/Rev.1.



PERMANENT MISSION OF IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**PRESS RELEASE**

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Eighteenth Special Session of the General Assembly  
devoted to international economic co-operation,  
in particular to the revitalisation of economic growth  
and development of the developing countries

Statement by

Mr. Gerard Collins, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Ireland

on behalf of the  
European Community and its  
member States

23 April, 1990

Mr. President:

On behalf of the European Community and its member States, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the important post of President of this Special Session of the General Assembly. We are confident that under your expert guidance we will successfully complete our work this week. I would also like to thank Ambassador Zepos of Greece for his able work in chairing the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session.

Mr. President:

The entire international community rejoices and takes pride that Namibia has at last taken its place in the United Nations as a free, sovereign and independent state. The European Community and its member States salute the achievement of the people of Namibia in making this day a reality. We warmly pay tribute to the central role played by the United Nations in the process leading to Namibia taking its rightful place among the community of nations.

The Twelve have over many years expressed our support and solidarity with the people of Namibia. The European Community and its member States hope that in the near future we will be welcoming Namibia as the 69th member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of countries linked to the Community through the Lome Convention. Today, on behalf of the Twelve, let me pledge to the government and people of Namibia our friendship and support in the

challenging days ahead.

Mr. President:

The Special Session takes place against the backdrop of historic change. There is movement away from outmoded political and economic systems. We see a new emphasis placed on individual liberty, initiative and enterprise. Pluralistic societies, democratic institutions, legal systems which protect the rights of the individual, market oriented economies are now all center stage in the pursuit of effective means to allow the full development of the individual.

We see clear signs of willingness by many countries to look again at the organisation of their societies. Radical structural changes have taken place in economic and political life. A new wind of change is blowing away old, outdated approaches as the world moves towards the twenty first century. We have seen this process of change affect countries of very different economic levels of development. In recent years many developing countries have adopted far-ranging programmes designed to bring about fundamental changes to improve the well-being of their populations. The adoption of these programmes has often required political courage on the part of the societies concerned. The international community must stand ready to support these efforts which are designed to bring about sustainable development. This support is particularly crucial to the efforts of the least developed countries in their

implementation of effective development policies.

The most dramatic evidence of the process of reform has been the series of events which have transformed the countries of Central and Eastern Europe over the past year. These countries have surged forward in a sweeping process of radical change. They have set out to remodel their societies. The process of change envisages the removal of arbitrary state interference in all critical social and economic areas of the life of the citizen. Furthermore, these events have occurred in the context of the significant reduction of the political tensions between East and West which corroded international life for over forty years.

Mr. President:

In the context of these dynamic processes which have emerged, what type of objective should we set out to achieve in our work at this Special Session? In the first instance, we must affirm that our primary objective is to bring about the revitalisation of economic growth and development particularly in the developing countries. We have no hesitation in asserting that it is the situation of the people of the developing countries, up to one billion of whom live in absolute poverty, which gives rise to our most serious concern. The Twelve reaffirm that they will, in view of the huge development tasks ahead, continue to provide substantial concessional support to the developing countries. The European Community and its member States reaffirm their commitment to the accepted UN target for the

level of Official Development Assistance (ODA) - 0.7% of GNP, including 0.15% for the Least Developed Countries. The 25% increase in real terms in the resources provided for the fourth Lome Convention is clear evidence of our strong commitment to assist the development of the developing countries.

Mr. President:

We believe that the Special Session can play an important role in injecting impetus into the process of advancing economic growth and sustainable development. We see the Session as situated at a crossroads in the development process. It allows us to take stock of the important events of the past decade, drawing the necessary conclusions, positive and negative, from the development experience. At the same time, we have the opportunity to underline the importance we attach to certain key areas which now appear to be fundamental for development success in the final decade of the century. We believe the document emerging as the result of our endeavours should elaborate a set of principles for development which would establish a new agenda for the United Nations based on a global view of the challenges of the 1990s. The series of major international economic events scheduled for the next few years, such as the Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries next September, the drawing-up of the fourth International Development Strategy, the outcome of the Uruguay Round, the holding in June of

next year of UNCTAD VIII and the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development will allow the elaboration of policies in specific areas. Thus, in our view, the Special Session can serve as a platform for launching meaningful and relevant work in the years ahead.

Mr. President:

I want now to look back briefly on the key development issues which emerged in the period of the 1980s. On the basis of this review, I will attempt to set out the thinking of the Twelve on the overall tasks facing the developed and developing countries alike in the 1990s.

In looking back over the past decade, we see that economic performance by developed and developing countries was mixed. For the developed countries, following a period of rigorous adjustment to take account of the new economic situation resulting from the two oil crises, sustained economic growth was restored. In particular, the inflationary pressures of the late 1970s and early 1980s were curbed. As a result of the economic policies followed, real increases in living standards were achieved. A technological revolution held out increasing prospects of ever more innovative and wealth creating systems of economic management. Moves towards globalisation of international markets brought about significant efficiency and other gains.



Nevertheless, certain negative elements in the developed countries performance remained. Unemployment in many developed countries remained at unacceptably high levels. Significant economic imbalances in some of the major industrialised countries continued to exist. In addition, the consumption and production patterns of the industrialised countries continued to threaten our common environment. It was increasingly recognised that effective action was required on a global basis to combat environmental degradation.

For the developing countries, the experience of the 1980s varied widely. The decade served to underline the very significant diversity in their performance, thereby highlighting the critical differences in the development challenges they individually faced and in their responses to them. For some of these countries, due mainly to their own skilled and committed effort, the decade saw unprecedented growth. Indeed, a number effectively graduated from developing to developed status. We look forward to the positive input of these countries, both materially and intellectually, to the development process in the 1990s. We expect that the lessons they have to offer regarding the economic, social and other factors required for development will be of benefit to us all. In addition, for the two largest developing countries, the period was one of unprecedented growth in living standards for their populations. At the same time, for many developing countries,

ensuring that the benefits of economic growth and development were equitably shared by all sections of society emerged as an important issue.

However, for other developing countries the experience of the decade was less positive. In particular, for a number of countries the emergence of the debt crisis in the 1980s constituted an obstacle to economic growth. For some, the servicing of their external debt could only be accomplished by a significant compression of imports and a large reduction in investment in their economies. Their efforts to meet debt service commitments seriously compromised their prospects for economic growth and development. It was increasingly recognised that innovative approaches would be required to help find solutions to the problems faced by individual countries. The international financial institutions, proceeding on a case-by-case basis, continue to have the central role in these efforts. At the same time, action taken by developed countries in recent years has contributed to a reduction of the difficulties caused by the debt burdens of many developing countries.

Mr. President:

For the least developed countries, despite certain welcome exceptions, the experience of the decade was very largely negative. In addition to serious debt service difficulties, many remain

vulnerable to long-term adverse trends in real primary commodity prices. This vulnerability has been recognised by the European Community in successive Lome Conventions and compensatory mechanisms have been established. For many of the least developed, the Paris Conference in September should provide a valuable opportunity to explore realistic options for improving the operation of their economies. The Conference must aim to agree a range of practical actions to be taken by developed and least developed countries alike. Action, involving commitments, is urgently required for the least developed countries, many of whom will not be able to achieve sustained development without substantial support even should they implement sound national strategies. The early implementation of the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities could play a useful role in supporting the least developed countries' efforts to diversify their economic base. A successful outcome to the Uruguay Round would also benefit the least developed.

Mr. President:

The difficulties faced by many developing countries serve to highlight certain conclusions which have emerged over the course of the decade. Most generally, it is clear that there is no overall economic blueprint which can automatically bring about economic growth and development in the developing countries. It

is also now apparent that the timeframe for recovery must be longer than envisaged at the start of the 1980s. However, the most lasting, most clear and most important lesson is that it is fundamentally the task of the developing countries themselves to ensure their own development. It is primarily their responsibility to put in place appropriate policies to energise and steer the development effort. Successful national policies can allow the exploitation of existing opportunities for development that exist within and beyond the domestic economies of the developing countries. Support from the international community can most effectively be employed in support of such sound national policies. Finally, the experience of the decade, as of its predecessors, once again underlines the need for flexibility in development thinking. Development is a continuous process, taking place in a changing environment and for ever facing new challenges requiring new solutions. For the developed and developing countries alike it is then imperative to ensure that outmoded approaches are discarded in tackling ever changing circumstances.

Mr. President:

It is therefore required of all participants in the development process to adopt flexible and pragmatic approaches. For its part, the European Community and its member States are determined to keep an open mind in the search for solutions appropriate to different

countries and regions. Nevertheless, at this moment in time, certain key factors appear central to successful development. Furthermore, certain specific areas of activity seem appropriate for joint efforts by developed and developing countries while other areas are primarily the responsibility of individual developed or developing countries. Briefly, I would like to outline what seems to us to be an appropriate division of tasks so that the existing opportunities will be utilised. In this way, we can advance work to ensure the revitalisation of economic growth and development of the developing countries.

It is the primary responsibility of the developed countries to bring about an international economic environment which facilitates sustained non-inflationary growth. To this end, efforts need to be strengthened to pursue necessary structural adjustments and to improve fiscal and monetary policies, thereby contributing to a reduction in interest rates. It is also necessary to reduce existing imbalances and protectionist pressures. For their part, the European Community and its member States will work to reinforce their own mechanisms of economic co-ordination and convergence within the European Monetary System. We believe that the EMS reinforces the international monetary system through providing regional monetary stability in an increasingly multipolar world.

An open multilateral trading system, as well as resistance to and rolling back protectionism everywhere, are essential conditions for sustainable growth and development in all countries. We pledge our determination to work to achieve a successful, balanced and comprehensive outcome to the Uruguay Round which also takes account of the special needs of the least developed countries. The Round must be utilised as a unique opportunity to achieve, through mutual concessions by both industrialised and developing countries, a strengthening of the international trading system as well as major trade liberalisation on the eve of the fourth Development Decade. For our part, we are encouraged by the significant increases in recent years in the exports of developing countries. We also believe that, for the developing countries, the establishment of the internal market within the Community presents both opportunities and challenges. The single market will create increased demand for a range of products from the developing world. The successful restructuring of the economies of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe would, over time, also provide valuable economic opportunities for the developing countries. Successful restructuring would in addition allow these countries to increase their contribution to the development efforts of the developing countries.

Mr. President:

As I have mentioned, many developing countries have already realised the need to remodel their economies if they are not to be left further behind in the global economy. Increasing attention is being given to opportunities for improved economic performance at the regional and sub-regional level. Such arrangements could help to make the best use of scarce infrastructure and other factors crucial for economic growth. In addition, many have undertaken stringent structural adjustment programmes which seek to remove existing rigidities and impediments to economic growth and development. The multilateral development agencies will continue to play a crucial role in helping to design these programmes and in seeking to provide the required funding to ensure their success. At the same time, efforts must continue to guarantee the suitability of adjustment programmes for the particular needs of individual countries, bearing in mind the social and political costs of the adjustment process. Experience increasingly shows that adjustment programmes have more chance of success if tailored to specific requirements. There is also widespread recognition that the programmes must protect the most vulnerable groups in society and be situated in a multi-year framework.

Mr. President:

Nevertheless, it is incontestable that the full political commitment of the Governments and peoples of the developing countries is required if adjustment policies are to work. Adjustment policies must be intrinsically national policies if they are to galvanise the necessary internal response. They must enjoy the wide and sustained support of the societies in which they are implemented. The experience of successful developing countries highlights the validity of this point.

For the Twelve, functioning democratic institutions, enjoying the full and freely given support of the populations of developing countries, increasingly appear necessary to ensure the success of development strategies. Effective market and outward oriented policies, which experience suggests require pluralistic societies, seem also required to allow sustainable development. In many cases, there is urgent need for defining a new balance between market forces and the economic role of the State. Effective, fair and enforceable legal provisions, guaranteeing the individual and property rights of the citizen, also appear necessary to bring about equitable and durable development. More generally, the human factor, at once the means to, and the objective of, development policies, must be given much greater stress in bringing about effective involvement in implementing policies. In this regard,



efforts must be strengthened to ensure the full and equal participation of women in the development process.

Effective commitment to development also requires the access of every member of society to adequate health, education and living facilities. These are the prerequisites for the creation of the human skills in society to allow sustainable development. To this end, there is a need for sound, accountable government and for a commitment to the welfare of the most vulnerable sections of society. Fundamental attention must be given to the question of population growth in the search for sustainable development.

Finally, experience increasingly suggests that concern for the environment is crucial to ensure full commitment to development efforts. Environmental degradation poses a widespread and increasing threat for all mankind. Land degradation, desertification and soil erosion as well as floods and famine, which have caused enormous loss of life in recent years, all underline the precarious situation of hundreds of millions in the developing world. Poverty and its interrelated causes in the developing countries pose an enormous threat to sustainable development. Without increased attention and commitment to tackling the complex and interrelated problems negatively affecting our common environment, the future of all our countries is sombre. For their

part, the developed countries will be required to provide additional resources and the appropriate technologies to complement the efforts of the developing countries to protect their fragile human and natural resources.

Mr. President:

I have spelled out in some detail the present views of the European Community and its member States because of the importance we attach to the achievement of the objectives of the present Special Session. I would once again emphasise that the approach of the Community is an evolving one. We stand ready to learn, as we have done in the past, from future experience of the development process. At the same time, we must emphasise the importance we attach to the type of approach we have outlined. Economic growth and sustainable development of the developing countries require a commitment on all sides to candid examination of what now should be done. For our part, we stand ready to engage in constructive dialogue with the developing countries as we face together the challenges of the coming years.

Thank you, Mr. President.



## UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## PRESS RELEASE

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Statement by Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering, United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, in the United Nations General Assembly Special Session Devoted to International Economic Cooperation, April 25, 1990

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Mr. President, "Sometimes it is necessary to think like an economist." With these words an eminent American politician reminded us that desire cannot substitute for decisions, and that faith needs acts to become reality.

It is now almost trite to say that we are at a turning point in history. We are all aware of the sweeping and dramatic changes underway in the world. This transformation is not confined to Eastern Europe. It concerns economic revitalization as well as political restructuring. The great overriding theme of this change is that past assertions of superior wisdom on the part of governing elites must now yield to a much more modest vision of the state's purpose and role. As a result, individuals and private groups, operating on their own initiative, are now being allowed appropriate opportunities to propose, create, innovate, and lead.

These changes and the trends and forces that have caused them have brought us together at a remarkably decisive moment. By taking heed of recent developments, we can fashion an immensely more productive agenda for sustained economic development for the future. This historic opportunity also creates very special circumstances here at the United Nations. That is the reason for the active and energetic participation of the United States delegation here today.

In the course of this special session, the General Assembly has the opportunity to articulate general themes for international economic cooperation in the 1990's. These themes can help guide the work of the United Nations, and in particular direct the efforts of the Second U.N. Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the preparation of an International Development Strategy, and the proceedings of UNCTAD VIII.

- 2 -

The underlying themes of the conceptual framework are already clear:

1. Multi-party democracy based on free, periodic, and genuine elections.
2. The rule of law and equal protection of the law, based on respect for human rights and on effective, accessible, and just legal systems.
3. Economic activity that respects the right of workers to form and join independent trade unions, and that does not involve forced labor or discrimination against workers because of their gender, ethnic origins, religious beliefs, or political views.
4. Free, open, and competitive market economies in which prices are determined by supply and demand.
5. Unhindered exchanges of goods and services among individuals and enterprises in both domestic and international markets which include and encourage direct contacts among customers and suppliers.
6. Full recognition and protection of the rights of citizens to hold and use private property, including their rights to intellectual property.
7. National economic objectives focused on productivity, rather than simply on production as a purpose in itself.
8. National fiscal and monetary policies that are sound and well conceived.
9. International and domestic practices which support the expansion of free and open trade, the free flow of investment funds and other capital, and the unrestricted ability to transfer capital and profits in terms of convertible currencies.

The course of events in recent years makes it clear it is these ideas that remain valid and useful as guides to the future. And it is no coincidence that these ideas, in turn, are firmly based on and highly responsive to the key concepts of human rights, human diversity, and individual human aspirations.

For these reasons the United States Government is deeply committed to supporting market-oriented reforms around the world, because such reforms have worked, and will continue to work, to create sustainable growth and development.

- 3 -

### National Economic Policies

We believe that the major responsibility for successful development rests with the people and government of each nation. For the most part, development depends on national decisions and domestic efforts -- the desire and ability to implement reforms and other measures needed to promote balanced and stable growth.

The first step in meeting the challenge of revitalizing economic growth and development is for each nation to adopt appropriate economic policies. We know that in many instances the effort to do this will require substantial adjustments and reforms. These changes are in fact fundamental to revitalizing the economies of developing countries and to improving their standards of living. They will also be an increasingly important consideration as developing countries compete worldwide for foreign resources, both public and private.

For developing countries struggling with domestic economic and external financial problems, macroeconomic reforms -- in particular sound fiscal, monetary, and exchange rate policies -- remain critical. However, they alone are not sufficient. Policies on the supply side designed to free up rigidities, allow the marketplace to work, and boost production are essential to combining adjustment with growth. Policies which liberalize trade, reform labor markets, develop financial markets, and privatize government enterprises allow the private sector to help increase employment and efficiency. Measures which help to mobilize savings, encourage new investment, and foster repatriation of flight capital can provide essential new finance to boost and sustain economic growth.

The United States recognizes that national economic policies are not sufficient by themselves. The international economic environment is equally important. In this regard the developed world has a special responsibility. In particular, the major industrialized countries must promote sustained world growth and expanding trade. In so doing, we must be sensitive to the needs of developing countries and maintain an active partnership in an international economic climate that seeks to achieve mutual benefits by means of reasoned and responsible dialogue.

In both developed and developing countries, the task of formulating and adopting appropriate national policies is now more difficult and complex than it used to be. Transnational terrorism and illicit trafficking in narcotics represent negative phenomena that sap economic growth and development. The need to preserve and enhance our increasingly endangered environment imposes its own costs and constraints. Nations must also address issues related to the transfer of technology, including the protection of copyrights, trademarks, and other forms of intellectual property. New and evolving methods for regional political and economic cooperation can help to address these problems.

- 4 -

This interwoven fabric of growth and change creates complex concerns that we want to help address. The United States seeks to work with other governments, both within the United Nations and elsewhere. We recognize that all governments -- most emphatically including our own -- are responsible for contributing to sustainable international economic development. We take this responsibility seriously and are seeking to fulfill it.

#### External debt

Our ongoing efforts to address developing countries' debt problems represent an important part of this effort. At the initiative of the United States, the international community recently strengthened the debt strategy to increase the emphasis on debt and debt service reduction by commercial banks to help meet countries' financing needs. Our ultimate aim is to promote sustained economic growth and development and to foster restored access to private capital markets. The fundamental objectives of the strengthened debt strategy are to:

- Revive hope in debtor countries and reinvigorate their commitment to economic reform.
- Encourage debt and debt-service reduction by commercial banks as a means of providing support for these reform efforts.
- Help build confidence in debtor economies, thereby encouraging investment and flight-capital repatriation.

In the context of this approach, creditor governments have renewed their commitment to support debtor countries' efforts through contributions to the IMF and World Bank, ongoing export finance, and relief on bilateral debt obligations through reschedulings by the Paris Club.

Mexico, Chile, the Philippines, Costa Rica, Venezuela, and Morocco have already actively pursued the benefits of this strategy. We expect other countries to follow a similar course. The agreements reached to date between debtor countries and commercial banks demonstrate the strategy's flexibility in meeting the needs of a range of debtor countries. They also show clearly its potential to produce substantial benefits, both in reducing debt burdens and breathing life back into debtor economies.

A number of steps have also been taken to help ease the debt burden of the poorest countries which have adopted sound economic reform programs, such as special Paris Club reschedulings and bilateral debt cancellation programs. As part of this effort, the United States is in the process of forgiving \$850 million in economic assistance loans to fourteen Sub-Saharan African countries which are pursuing economic reforms. Finally, resources are now available through the International Development Association to address commercial bank debt burdens of these countries.

- 5 -

We believe that these efforts to address debt problems are yielding real results and that progress will continue to be made. Parallel to our efforts in the debt area, we also continue to rely on our development assistance program to promote the goals of revitalized growth and development.

#### Development assistance

The record of the United States and other developed countries in providing public and private assistance over an extended period has been significant. We have been the world's largest donor of economic assistance, having given a total of over \$212 billion from 1945 to 1988.

United States development assistance has three fundamental goals:

1. To contribute to broad-based and sustainable economic growth in developing countries.
2. To assist in developing human resources, with emphasis on achieving levels of health and education that allow citizens to contribute to and benefit from economic progress.
3. To encourage pluralistic values, including the promotion of competition, freedom, and democracy in a nation's social, economic, and political institutions.

In bilateral terms, United States assistance is tailored to the needs and conditions of each particular country, drawing from a large array of practical approaches and specific activities. This is the case because the universal need for sound economic policies does not provide us with a single, detailed global recipe for development. Neither is success measured by narrow targets formulated on a global basis.

In addition to the regular United States program for economic assistance, my government's efforts are supplemented by a range of highly significant measures to help developing economies: the Bilateral Investment Treaty Program, the Caribbean Basin Initiative, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, to name just a few examples. We are seeking to expand world trade and its benefits for the developing countries through the Uruguay Round. Through our contributions to the IMF, World Bank, and regional development banks we extend our commitment to development assistance, combining forces with other countries around the world to further growth and development.

The United States agrees that progress has been neither universal nor complete despite the number of important success stories in individual countries. However, we believe that it would not be productive for us to continue the development debates of the last three decades.

- 6 -

The advantages of effectively harnessing market forces should be evident to all, as should the benefits of political democracy and free-market economies. The United States is committed to active involvement in the dialogue aimed at advancing these interrelated concepts, and that is a major reason for my delegation's participation here today.

The United States has three practical goals for this special session of the General Assembly:

- First, the special session should address the changes and lessons of the recent past, drawing appropriate conclusions for the immediate future.
- Second, the special session should articulate a set of themes that can guide the United Nations efforts to promote economic growth and development in the developing world.
- Third, the special session should produce a declaration that will give useful guidelines for a series of upcoming United Nations conferences related to development.

These themes can serve to encourage and inspire the initiative of free people everywhere. Our goal is accelerated, sustainable development for all countries in the context of a stable world economy. We do not wish to see political and social rights and benefits traded away as part of some magical formula that falsely promises increased material rewards in return. In fact, to advocate such a bargain is fundamentally mistaken. Efforts to derive increased material rewards rarely succeed unless they involve appropriate respect for political and social rights and benefits.

We believe that the special session can achieve these goals by soberly reflecting on past experience, by objectively choosing between ideas that work and those which do not, and by putting faith in the ability of people as individuals and members of free societies to order their lives and activities to the mutual benefit of all.

During this week we have been listening carefully to your views and have benefited from them. This is a world whose national economies are increasingly interlinked. It is a world whose people's aspirations are increasingly alike. The question of international economic cooperation and the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries is much too important for ideological confrontation or rhetorical games. Our mutual dedication to economic development is best served if we respect each others views and seek to work out agreed conclusions based on civility and consensus. That is certainly the goal of my delegation, and I believe it is a common purpose which all of us should share.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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CANADA

COMMUNIQUÉ

SOUS RÉSERVE DE MODIFICATIONS  
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE NO 4

DÉCLARATION PRONONCÉE PAR  
L'HONORABLE MONIQUE LANDRY,  
MINISTRE DES RELATIONS EXTÉRIEURES ET  
DU DÉVELOPPEMENT INTERNATIONAL,  
CHEF DE LA DÉLÉGATION CANADIENNE À LA  
SESSION EXTRAORDINAIRE DE L'ASSEMBLÉE  
GÉNÉRALE CONSACRÉE À LA COOPÉRATION  
INTERNATIONALE ET EN PARTICULIER À LA  
RELANCE DE LA CROISSANCE ÉCONOMIQUE  
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DANS LES PAYS EN  
DÉVELOPPEMENT

NEW YORK, le 24 avril 1990

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PRESS RELEASE NO. 4

STATEMENT BY  
THE HONOURABLE MONIQUE LANDRY,  
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,  
HEAD OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO  
THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IN PARTICULAR  
TO THE REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC  
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, 24 April 1990

CANADIAN DELEGATION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DELEGATION DU CANADA  
AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES

MONSIEUR LE PRÉSIDENT, MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS LES  
MINISTRES, EXCELLENCES ET DÉLÉGUÉS, MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS,

ON N'AURAIT PAS PU CHOISIR DE MOMENT PLUS OPPORTUN  
POUR CETTE SESSION. EN EFFET, ELLE PERMETTRA DE DÉFINIR LE  
CADRE DES DÉLIBÉRATIONS PORTANT SUR LA COOPÉRATION ÉCONOMIQUE  
ET LA STRATÉGIE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT POUR LES ANNÉES 90. DE PLUS  
ELLE SE TIENT À UN MOMENT OÙ LE MONDE QUI NOUS ENTOURE  
CONNAÎT DES BOULEVERSEMENTS PROFONDS.

DANS CE CONTEXTE, C'EST AVEC UN TRÈS GRAND PLAISIR QUE  
LE CANADA ACCUEILLE LA NAMIBIE DANS CETTE ENCEINTE OÙ ELLE  
PARTICIPE POUR LA PREMIÈRE FOIS AUX TRAVAUX DE L'ASSEMBLÉE  
GÉNÉRALE ET À CETTE ENTREPRISE IMPORTANTE EN QUALITÉ DE 160E  
ÉTAT MEMBRE DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES.

POUR BEAUCOUP D'ENTRE VOUS LES ANNÉES 80 ONT ÉTÉ  
EXTRÊMEMENT DIFFICILES ET NOUS EXPRIMONS DONC L'ESPOIR, LE  
VOEU ET LE DÉSIR LE PLUS VIF QUE LES PROMETTEUSES ANNÉES 90  
NOUS ÉVITENT DE RETOMBER DANS LES ERREURS DU PASSÉ. IL NOUS  
INCOMBE DONC, EN TANT QUE REPRÉSENTANTS DE NOS GOUVERNEMENTS,  
DE PRENDRE LE TEMPS DE DÉBATTRE DE LA FAÇON DONT NOUS POUVONS  
RENFORCER LA COOPÉRATION ÉCONOMIQUE ENTRE NOS PAYS ET JETER  
LES BASES DES POLITIQUES NATIONALES SAINES QUI CONDUIRONT À  
UNE CROISSANCE ET UN DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE.

## INTRODUCTION

A L'AUBE DE CETTE DERNIÈRE DÉCENNIE DU VINGTIÈME  
SIÈCLE, NOTRE MONDE DEVIENT TOUJOURS PLUS INTERDÉPENDANT.  
NOTRE MISSION COMMUNE CONSISTE À CRÉER DES CONDITIONS  
ÉCONOMIQUES INTERNATIONALES FAVORABLES ET À RENFORCER LA  
COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE. L'IMPORTANCE QUE LE CANADA PORTE  
À CETTE COOPÉRATION, AINSI QU'AUX TRAVAUX DE CETTE SESSION  
EXTRAORDINAIRE, APPARAÎT À L'ÉVIDENCE DANS LE DOCUMENT DÉPOSÉ  
PAR LE CANADA, OÙ NOUS PRÉSENTONS NOMBRE DE NOS VUES ET DE  
NOS IDÉES CONCERNANT CES QUESTIONS.

UN CERTAIN NOMBRE DE PRINCIPES POUR LA COOPÉRATION  
ÉCONOMIQUE ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT MÉRITENT QU'ON LES RAPPELLE:

- 2 -

- 1) TOUS LES ÊTRES HUMAINS ONT LE DROIT FONDAMENTAL DE VIVRE À L'ABRI DE LA FAIM, DE LA MALADIE ET DE LA CRAINTE.
- 2) CHAQUE ETAT EST RESPONSABLE DE SES PROPRES POLITIQUES ÉCONOMIQUES ET DU BIEN-ÊTRE DE SES CITOYENS.
- 3) LA COLLECTIVITÉ INTERNATIONALE A LE DEVOIR D'AIDER LES PAYS EN DÉVELOPPEMENT À POURSUIVRE DES POLITIQUES EFFICACES EN MATIÈRE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT..
- 4) LA COOPÉRATION ÉCONOMIQUE PEUT ET DOIT ÊTRE MODELÉE AU TRAVERS D'INSTITUTIONS MULTILATÉRALES EFFICACES..

JE VOUDRAIS ABORDER BRIÈVEMENT TROIS GRANDES QUESTIONS QUI SONT ÉTROITEMENT LIÉES AUX TRANSFORMATIONS SURVENUES DANS LE MONDE AUJOURD'HUI.

#### LE PLURALISME ÉCONOMIQUE

LE PREMIER THÈME EST CELUI DU PLURALISME ÉCONOMIQUE. NOUS AVONS TOUS PRIS CONSCIENCE DE LA NÉCESSITÉ DE LAISSER UNE PLUS GRANDE LATITUDE AUX SIMPLES PARTICULIERS ET AUX ENTREPRISES QUI SOUHAITENT LANCER LES INITIATIVES QU'ILS JUGENT LES PLUS AVANTAGEUSES, TANT POUR EUX-MÊMES QUE POUR LEUR COLLECTIVITÉ. NOUS DEVONS POUVOIR RÉPONDRE À CE CLIMAT MONDIAL PLUS COMPÉTITIF ET, CE FAISANT, SAVOIR RESTRUCTURER NOS ÉCONOMIES.

LA CROISSANCE DOIT ÊTRE ASSISE SUR UNE BASE AUSSI LARGE QUE POSSIBLE AFIN D'ENTRAÎNER LA GRANDE MASSE DE LA POPULATION DANS DES ACTIVITÉS ÉCONOMIQUES PRODUCTIVES. LE RELÈVEMENT DES NIVEAUX DE VIE, L'ÉQUITÉ ET L'ÉLARGISSEMENT DE LA PARTICIPATION POPULAIRE EXIGENT UN CLIMAT INSTITUTIONNEL OFFRANT UN PLUS VASTE ÉVENTAIL DE CHOIX ET DE DÉBOUCHÉS. LA RÉDUCTION DE LA PAUVRETÉ DANS TOUTES LES SOCIÉTÉS DOIT CONSTITUER UN OBJECTIF FONDAMENTAL.

LA CROISSANCE ÉCONOMIQUE EXIGE QUE TOUS LES PAYS ÉLABORENT UN CADRE MACRO-ÉCONOMIQUE DURABLE ET QU'ILS APPLIQUENT VIGOREUSEMENT DES RÉFORMES ÉCONOMIQUES INTÉRIEURES, À LONG TERME, QU'ILS FAVORISENT L'INSTAURATION D'UNE PLUS GRANDE SOUPLESSE ET LE RACCOURCISSEMENT DES TEMPS DE RÉACTION DANS L'ÉCONOMIE, UTILISANT LES RESSOURCES FINANCIÈRES ET HUMAINES DE FAÇON PLUS EFFICACE ET EFFICIENTE, AFIN QU'ILS LAISSENT UN PLUS LARGE ESPACE À LA COMPÉTITION, L'INITIATIVE ET À L'ENTREPRISE PRIVÉES.

UNE COMPOSANTE IMPORTANTE DE CE PROCESSUS RÉSIDE DANS LA FAÇON DONT LE JEU DES FORCES DU MARCHÉ ET LE MÉCANISME DES PRIX TRANSMETTENT L'INFORMATION . CES MESSAGES SONT VITAUX POUR NOMBRE D'ACTIVITÉS ET POUR LES POLITIQUES GOUVERNEMENTALES. ILS SONT ESSENTIELS POUR UNE MOBILISATION EFFICACE DES ÉPARGNES DOMESTIQUES DU SECTEUR FINANCIER ET POUR PERMETTRE AUX AGRICULTEURS DE CHOISIR LES CULTURES DE CHAQUE CAMPAGNE DE MANIÈRE À OBTENIR DE LEURS PARCELLES LES MEILLEURS RENDEMENTS POSSIBLES. LE JEU DES FORCES DU MARCHÉ ET LE MÉCANISME DES PRIX CONSTITUENT LES MOYENS LES PLUS EFFICACES POUR ORGANISER NOS ÉCONOMIES ET RÉPONDRE LE MIEUX POSSIBLE AUX BESOINS ET AUX ASPIRATIONS DE NOS POPULATIONS.

SI L'ON VEUT QUE LA MAJORITÉ DE LA POPULATION SOIT EN EN MESURE DE PARTICIPER EFFECTIVEMENT AU FONCTIONNEMENT D'UNE ÉCONOMIE PLURALISTE ET PUISSE CONTRIBUER AU DÉVELOPPEMENT NATIONAL ET RÉALISER SON POTENTIEL, IL EST ESSENTIEL DE RÉPONDRE À CERTAINS BESOINS FONDAMENTAUX DE LA PERSONNE. AINSI :

- LA POSSIBILITÉ DOIT ÊTRE DONNÉE AUX ANALPHABÈTES D'APPRENDRE À LIRE ET À ÉCRIRE, ET UNE FORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE APPROPRIÉE DOIT ÊTRE DISPENSÉE, SURTOUT AUX ÉCONOMIQUEMENT FAIBLES;
- LES MALADES ET LES SOUS-ALIMENTÉS DOIVENT AVOIR ACCÈS À UNE ALIMENTATION SUFFISANTE ET AUX SOINS PRIMAIRES QU'EXIGE LEUR ÉTAT;
- LES ENFANTS DOIVENT ÊTRE IMMUNISÉS CONTRE LES MALADIES ET LES MÈRES DOIVENT RECEVOIR UNE FORMATION CONCERNANT LES SOINS À DONNER AUX NOUVEAUX-NÉS ET AUX ENFANTS;
- LES FEMMES DOIVENT AVOIR ACCÈS À L'ÉDUCATION AFIN DE POUVOIR PARTICIPER PLEINEMENT AU DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DANS LAQUELLE ELLES VIVENT, ET DONC ELLES DOIVENT AVOIR ACCÈS AU CRÉDIT ET AUX AUTRES FACILITÉS ET SERVICES NÉCESSAIRES POUR AMÉLIORER LEURS CAPACITÉS GÉNÉRATRICES DE REVENUS.
- LES RÉSULTATS DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DOIVENT ÊTRE PARTAGÉS ÉQUITABLEMENT

NOUS SOMMES PARTICULIÈREMENT PRÉOCCUPÉS DE LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT. CE DÉFI EST GLOBAL ET EXIGE UNE COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE EFFICACE. LES GOUVERNEMENTS DOIVENT PRENDRE DES MESURES AFIN QUE LA POPULATION ACQUIÈRE LES APTITUDES ET LES COMPÉTENCES QUI LUI PERMETTRONT D'UTILISER, À DES FINS LES PLUS PRODUCTRICES, L'ENVIRONNEMENT NATUREL D'UNE MANIÈRE SAIN ET DURABLE. ON DOIT DONNER LA PRIORITÉ AU RÉTABLISSEMENT ET À LA PRÉSERVATION DU MILIEU AGRICOLE ET SYLVICOLE, OÙ HABITE LA MAJORITÉ DE LA POPULATION, FAUTE DE TELLES MESURES DE REDRESSEMENT IL LUI SERA IMPOSSIBLE D'AMÉLIORER SON BIEN-ÊTRE.

### LE PLURALISME POLITIQUE

LE DEUXIÈME THÈME QUE JE SOUHAITE ÉVOQUER - D'AILLEURS ÉTROITEMENT APPARENTÉ AU PREMIER - EST CELUI DU PLURALISME POLITIQUE. L'ESSENTIEL EST QUE LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE TOUTES NOS SOCIÉTÉS NE PEUT QUE PROFITER DU LIBRE EXERCICE DES DROITS DÉMOCRATIQUES. LES INDIVIDUS DOIVENT AVOIR LA POSSIBILITÉ DE PARTICIPER AUX MÉCANISMES DE DÉCISIONS - QUE CE SOIT À L'ÉCHELON NATIONAL OU LOCAL - QUI RETENTISSENT DIRECTEMENT SUR SA VIE QUOTIDIENNE. OR L'EXERCICE EFFECTIF DE CES DROITS DÉPEND EN PARTIE DE L'EXISTENCE ET DU BON FONCTIONNEMENT D'INSTITUTIONS DÉMOCRATIQUES APPROPRIÉES.

LES COMMUNAUTÉS RURALES ET URBAINES DOIVENT POUVOIR ÉLIRE LEURS PROPRES INSTANCES DÉCISIONNELLES EN MATIÈRE DE PRESTATION DE SERVICES D'UTILITÉ PUBLIQUE, D'ENSEIGNEMENT, DE SANTÉ, D'APPROVISIONNEMENT EN EAU OU DES AUTRES INFRASTRUCTURES.

EN UNE DIZAINE D'ANNÉES, NOUS AVONS ASSISTÉ À LA NAISSANCE DE NOMBREUX GOUVERNEMENTS DÉMOCRATIQUES EN EUROPE ORIENTALE: ON CONNAÎT LES PROGRÈS IMPORTANTS ACCOMPLIS AVEC L'ARRIVÉE AU POUVOIR DE GOUVERNEMENTS DÉMOCRATIQUES EN AMÉRIQUE LATINE, EN AFRIQUE ET EN ASIE. ON POURRAIT AUSSI CITER D'AUTRES EXEMPLES OÙ, SUITE À DES ÉLECTIONS LIBRES, LES GOUVERNEMENTS ONT DÛ RÉFORMER LEURS INSTITUTIONS POUR DONNER AU PEUPLE UN PLUS GRAND POIDS.

ENFIN, IL EST INDISPENSABLE QUE L'ADMINISTRATION DE LA JUSTICE SOIT INDÉPENDANTE ET QUE L'ADMINISTRATION PUBLIQUE SOIT IMPARTIALE ET COHÉRENTE. LE PROBLÈME DE LA CORRUPTION PRÉOCCUPE LES ADMINISTRÉS ET LES GOUVERNEMENTS DU MONDE ENTIER CAR IL PEUT AVOIR DES EFFETS CATASTROPHIQUES SUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT NATIONAL. AU-DELÀ DE SES COÛTS MANIFESTES ET

- 5 -

DES DISTORSIONS QU'ELLE INTRODUIT DANS LES MÉCANISMES DE DÉCISION, LA CORRUPTION MINE LA CONFIANCE DU PUBLIC DANS LES INSTITUTIONS DE L'ÉTAT. LE SYSTÈME DE GOUVERNEMENT ET D'ADMINISTRATION PUBLIQUE DOIT, EN DERNIÈRE INSTANCE, ÊTRE RESPONSABLE DEVANT LA POPULATION ET RÉPONDRE À SES BESOINS.

#### LA PAIX ET LA STABILITÉ RÉGIONALE

DEPUIS DES ANNÉES, LES CONFLITS RÉGIONAUX, NÉS DE L'AFFRONTLEMENT ENTRE DIFFÉRENTS GROUPES ETHNIQUES ET DE DIFFICULTÉS LIÉES AU PARTAGE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES ET AUTRES, ONT ÉTÉ AMPLIFIÉS PAR LA RIVALITÉ ENTRE LES SUPERPUISSANCES.

LES DIFFICULTÉS SUSCITÉES PAR CETTE RIVALITÉ ONT TROUVÉ POUR EXUTOIRE DES CONFLITS RÉGIONAUX MENÉS "POUR LE COMPTE DE TIERS". LA CONJUGAISON DES FACTEURS RÉGIONAUX ET INTERNATIONAUX A CAUSÉ D'INNOMBRABLES CONFLITS, D'INDICIBLES SOUFFRANCES AUX POPULATIONS CIVILES, DONT UNE PARTIE A DÛ ABANDONNER SES FOYERS, SANS AUTRE CHOIX QUE DE SUBSISTER PRÉCAIREMENT, AU BORD DE LA SURVIE, ENTASSÉE DANS DES CAMPS DE RÉFUGIÉS.

JE SUIS PARTICULIÈREMENT PRÉOCCUPÉE PAR LA SITUATION DANS LA CORNE DE L'AFRIQUE, OÙ UNE TRÈS GRAVE MENACE DE FAMINE COMPROMET LA SURVIE DE PLUSIEURS MILLIONS DE PERSONNES. LA GUERRE CIVILE, POUSSÉE À SON PAROXYSMES PAR L'INGÉRENCE EXTÉRIEURE, A ATTEINT LE STADE OÙ NON SEULEMENT ELLE PERTURBE PROFONDÉMENT L'ÉCONOMIE LOCALE, SURTOUT LA PRODUCTION AGRICOLE, MAIS ENCORE ELLE MENACE D'EMPÊCHER LA LIVRAISON DE RAVITAILLEMENT DANS LES ZONES OPÉRATIONNELLES DONT LES POPULATIONS, DÉJÀ ÉPROUVÉES PAR LA SÉCHERESSE, SONT AUJOURD'HUI MENACÉES PAR LA FAMINE.

LE RELÂCHEMENT DES TENSIONS POLITIQUES ET DE LA RIVALITÉ MILITAIRE ENTRE LES GRANDES PUISSANCES MONDIALES CRÉE UN COURANT IRRÉSISTIBLE EN FAVEUR DE LA SOLUTION DES CONFLITS RÉGIONAUX; IL POURRAIT AINSI OUVRIR LA VOIE À D'IMPORTANTES RÉDUCTIONS DES BUDGETS MILITAIRES. NOUS NOUS DEVONS DE PROFITER DE CE COURANT.

## CONCLUSION

MONSIEUR LE PRÉSIDENT, LE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET LA RELANCE DE LA CROISSANCE EXIGENT QUE NOUS DONNIONS LA PRIORITÉ À DES POLITIQUES ET DES PROGRAMMES DOMESTIQUES APPROPRIÉS, PROPICES À UNE ÉVOLUTION PLURALISTE DE L'ÉCONOMIE ET DE LA SOCIÉTÉ. LE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET LA RELANCE DE LA CROISSANCE EXIGENT AUSSI QUE L'ON AMÉNAGE LES INSTITUTIONS ET QUE L'ON METTE EN VALEUR LES COMPÉTENCES, LES RESSOURCES ET LES CAPACITÉS DES POPULATIONS DE MANIÈRE À LEUR DONNER LA POSSIBILITÉ D'INVESTIR, D'ENTREPRENDRE, ET DE SURMONTER LEURS PROPRES PROBLÈMES.

LE CANADA EST CONVAINCU QUE SES INTÉRÊTS FONDAMENTAUX ET CEUX DE TOUS LES PAYS RÉSIDENT DANS L'EXISTENCE D'INSTITUTIONS MULTILATÉRALES EFFICACES. NOUS SOMMES ÉGALEMENT RÉSOLUS À VOIR L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES JOUER UN RÔLE POSITIF ET CONSTRUCTIF DANS LA COOPÉRATION ÉCONOMIQUE INTERNATIONALE. NOUS AVONS ACCUEILLI CHALEUREUSEMENT L'INITIATIVE DES PAYS EN DÉVELOPPEMENT DE CONVOQUER CETTE SESSION EXTRAORDINAIRE QUI, NOUS L'ESPÉRONS, ANNONCE L'OUVERTURE D'UN DIALOGUE RENOUVELÉ ET LA RENONCIATION À UN DÉBAT PÉRIMÉ ET STÉRILE.

NOUS AVONS TOUS EN COMMUN LE DEVOIR DE CRÉER DES CONDITIONS ÉCONOMIQUES INTERNATIONALES PROPICES AU RENFORCEMENT DE LA COOPÉRATION:

- ° LA COMMUNAUTÉ INTERNATIONALE DEVRAIT CONTINUER À FOURNIR LES RESSOURCES EXTÉRIEURES NÉCESSAIRES POUR FACILITER LES RÉFORMES DES STRUCTURES TOUT EN ATTÉNUANT LES RÉPERCUSSIONS DE CES MESURES SUR LES PAUVRES ET SUR LES GROUPES VULNÉRABLES.
- ° LES PAYS QUI METTENT EN OEUVRE DES RÉFORMES CENTRÉES SUR LA CROISSANCE DEVRAIENT RECEVOIR UN APPUI POUR LES AIDER À GÉRER LEUR DETTE, ET À ALLÉGER LE FARDEAU DE L'ENDETTEMENT EXTERNE.
- ° IL EST ESSENTIEL DE METTRE AU POINT UN SYSTÈME COMMERCIAL MULTILATÉRAL PLUS OUVERT, PLUS CRÉDIBLE ET PLUS DURABLE, QUI SOIT EN MESURE DE CONTRIBUER EFFICACEMENT À LA CROISSANCE ET AU DÉVELOPPEMENT. LE SUCCÈS DES NÉGOCIATIONS DE L'URUGUAY ROUND, COURONNÉES PAR UNE LIBÉRATION MARQUÉE DES MARCHÉS, PROFITERA À TOUS.

- 7 -

LE CANADA RENOUVELLE SON ENGAGEMENT À METTRE À LA DISPOSITION DE NOMBREUX PAYS DU MONDE ENTIER ET DES INSTITUTIONS MULTILATÉRALES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT UN VASTE PROGRAMME EN EXPANSION. NOUS SOMMES PLUS QUE JAMAIS RÉSOLUS À AIDER LES PAYS À AFFRONTER LES PROBLÈMES DE L'AJUSTEMENT STRUCTUREL ET À PROMOUVOIR LEUR RELANCE ÉCONOMIQUE DANS L'ÉQUITÉ. LE CANADA CONTINUERA D'APPUYER LES EFFORTS QUI VISENT À DÉCUPLER LE POTENTIEL DES RESSOURCES HUMAINES, PARTICULIÈREMENT DANS LE CONTEXTE D'UNE SOCIÉTÉ PLURALISTE.

MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS, C'EST LÀ UNE GRANDE TÂCHE QUI NOUS ATTEND. LES ANNÉES 90 SONT PLEINES DE PROMESSES ET D'ESPOIRS. NOUS DEVONS TOUS COLLABORER POUR GARANTIR LA RÉALISATION DES ATTENTES DE CETTE SESSION EXTRAORDINAIRE ET POUR LA DÉCENNIE À VENIR. MERCI.



MR. CHAIRMAN, HONOURABLE MINISTERS, DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THE TIMING FOR THIS SPECIAL SESSION IS OPPORTUNE AS IT WILL HELP SET THE FRAMEWORK FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN THE 1990S. IT COMES ALSO AT A TIME OF TREMENDOUS CHANGE IN THE WORLD ABOUT US.

IN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT CANADA WELCOMES NAMIBIA TO OUR MIDST AS THE 160TH MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO PARTICIPATE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND IN THIS IMPORTANT ENDEAVOUR.

FOR MANY, THE DECADE OF THE 1980'S HAS BEEN AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ONE. IT IS THEREFORE WITH HOPE AND A FIRM DESIRE TO AVOID PAST MISTAKES THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE PROMISE OF THE 1990'S. IT IS FITTING THAT WE, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, TAKE THIS TIME TO DISCUSS WAYS TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TO LAY THE BASIS FOR SOUND NATIONAL POLICIES WHICH WILL LEAD TO SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

#### INTRODUCTION

AS WE EMBARK UPON THIS LAST DECADE OF THE 20TH CENTURY OUR WORLD IS BECOMING EVER MORE INTERDEPENDENT. WE ALL SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CREATING FAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND FOR STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. THE IMPORTANCE CANADA ATTACHES TO THIS COOPERATION AND TO THIS SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS REFLECTED IN THE PAPER WHICH CANADA PRESENTED, OUTLINING MANY OF OUR VIEWS AND IDEAS ON THESE ISSUES.

A NUMBER OF PRINCIPLES FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT BEAR REPEATING:

- 1) ALL HUMANITY HAS A BASIC RIGHT TO A LIFE FREE FROM HUNGER, POVERTY, IGNORANCE, DISEASE AND FEAR.
- 2) EACH STATE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS ECONOMIC POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND FOR THE WELL-BEING OF ITS CITIZENS.
- 3) THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS A RESPONSIBILITY

- 2 -

TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN PURSUING EFFECTIVE POLICIES OF DEVELOPMENT.

- 4) EFFECTIVE MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS CAN AND SHOULD BE USED TO SHAPE ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

THERE ARE THREE MAJOR THEMES WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO TOUCH UPON IN MY REMARKS THIS MORNING AND WHICH ARE VERY MUCH RELATED TO THE CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE WORLD TODAY.

#### ECONOMIC PLURALISM

THE FIRST THEME IS THAT OF ECONOMIC PLURALISM. WE HAVE ALL COME TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE NEED TO PROVIDE MORE SCOPE FOR OUR CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES TO UNDERTAKE THOSE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES WHICH THEY PERCEIVE TO BE MOST BENEFICIAL TO THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES. WE NEED ALSO TO RESPOND TO THE MORE COMPETITIVE WORLD ENVIRONMENT AND IN DOING SO TO RESTRUCTURE OUR ECONOMIES.

GROWTH NEEDS TO BE BROADLY BASED, DRAWING THE MASSES OF PEOPLE INTO PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. IMPROVEMENT IN LIVING STANDARDS, INCREASED EQUITY AND THE BROAD PARTICIPATION OF THE POPULATION IN THE ECONOMY REQUIRES AN INSTITUTIONAL SETTING WHICH PROVIDES GREATER CHOICE AND MORE OPPORTUNITY. THE REDUCTION OF POVERTY IN ALL SOCIETIES MUST BE A PRIMARY GOAL.

ECONOMIC GROWTH REQUIRES THAT ALL COUNTRIES DEVELOP A SUSTAINABLE MACRO-ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK, AND VIGOROUSLY PURSUE LONG TERM DOMESTIC ECONOMIC REFORM. THEY SHOULD EMPHASIZE GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE ECONOMY, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES, AND GREATER SCOPE FOR COMPETITION, INITIATIVE AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS PROCESS IS THE ROLE OF MARKET FORCES AND PRICE SIGNALS IN TRANSMITTING INFORMATION. THESE SIGNALS ARE CRITICAL FOR MANY DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES. THEY ARE THE KEY TO EFFICIENT MOBILIZATION OF DOMESTIC SAVINGS IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR AND TO ENABLE FARMERS TO DECIDE WHICH CROPS TO GROW IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE RETURNS FROM THEIR PLOTS OF LAND. THE USE OF MARKET FORCES AND PRICES IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY IN WHICH WE CAN ORGANIZE OUR ECONOMIES TO RESPOND BEST TO THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF OUR CITIZENS.

IF THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION IS TO PARTICIPATE

- 3 -

EFFECTIVELY IN A PLURALISTIC ECONOMY, CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND FULFILL THEIR POTENTIAL, CERTAIN BASIC HUMAN NEEDS MUST BE MET. THIS MEANS:

- THE ILLITERATE MUST HAVE THE CHANCE TO LEARN TO READ AND WRITE, AND ADEQUATE TRAINING MUST BE PROVIDED, PARTICULARLY TO THE POOR;
  - PEOPLE WHO ARE ILL OR WHO LACK SUFFICIENT FOOD SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND BASIC NUTRITION;
  - CHILDREN NEED TO BE INOCULATED AGAINST DISEASES AND MOTHERS EDUCATED ABOUT HOW TO CARE FOR BOTH THEIR INFANTS AND OLDER CHILDREN; AND
  - WOMEN SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION SO THAT THEY CAN PARTICIPATE FULLY IN DEVELOPMENT. THEY ALSO NEED ACCESS TO CREDIT AND OTHER FACILITIES SO THAT THEY CAN IMPROVE THEIR INCOME EARNING CAPACITIES.
- 
- THE FRUITS OF DEVELOPMENT MUST BE SHARED EQUITABLY.

WE ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED WITH PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT. THIS CHALLENGE IS GLOBAL IN SCOPE AND REQUIRES EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. GOVERNMENTS MUST ALSO TAKE STEPS SO THAT THEIR CITIZENS WILL HAVE THE ABILITIES AND SKILLS TO MAXIMIZE THE PRODUCTIVE USE OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN A SOUND AND SUSTAINABLE MANNER. THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT AND PRESERVATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST AREAS, WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION LIVE, SHOULD RECEIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION. WITHOUT SUCH REMEDIAL ACTION IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE PEOPLE TO IMPROVE THEIR WELFARE.

#### POLITICAL PLURALISM

THE SECOND THEME, AND THIS THEME IS VERY MUCH RELATED TO THE FIRST, IS THAT OF POLITICAL PLURALISM. THE ESSENTIAL POINT IS THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL OUR SOCIETIES IS ENHANCED WHEN PEOPLE ARE FREE TO EXERCISE THEIR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS. PEOPLE MUST HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS, WHETHER MADE AT THE NATIONAL OR LOCAL LEVEL, WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECT THEIR DAILY LIVES. THEIR ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE DEPENDS IN PART UPON THE EXISTENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF APPROPRIATE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

- 4 -

BOTH URBAN AND RURAL INHABITANTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ELECT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE DECISION MAKING POWER REGARDING THE INSTALLATION OF SERVICES, THE PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, THE LOCATION OF HEALTH CLINICS, THE LOCATION OF ROADS AND WELLS, ETC.

IN THE LAST DECADE WE HAVE SEEN THE EMERGENCE OF NEW DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE. SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ALSO IN THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA AND ASIA. THERE ARE OTHER EXAMPLES WHERE GOVERNMENTS HAVE CHANGED AS THE RESULT OF FREE ELECTIONS, AND WHERE GOVERNMENTS HAVE CHANGED THEIR OWN INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION.

FINALLY, IT IS CRITICAL THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BE INDEPENDENT, AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION BE IMPARTIAL AND PREDICTABLE. THE PROBLEM OF CORRUPTION IS OF CONCERN TO CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND ITS EFFECT ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CAN BE DEVASTATING. BESIDES THE EVIDENT COSTS AND DISTORTIONS TO DECISION-MAKING, IT UNDERMINES THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT. THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MUST ULTIMATELY BE ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE POPULACE.

#### PEACE AND REGIONAL STABILITY

FOR MANY YEARS REGIONAL CONFLICTS, WHICH REFLECTED THE COMPETITION BETWEEN VARIOUS ETHNIC GROUPS, AND THE DIFFICULTIES OVER THE SHARING OF NATURAL AND OTHER RESOURCES, WERE EXACERBATED BY THE SUPERPOWER RIVALRY.

WE HAVE SEEN THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH AROSE WHEN THESE RIVALRIES WERE ACTED OUT BY PROXY IN REGIONAL CONFLICTS. THE RESULT WAS CONSIDERABLE STRIFE AND SUFFERING FOR CIVILIAN POPULATIONS AND THE CREATION OF MANY LARGE REFUGEE POPULATIONS WHO HAD FEW ALTERNATIVES BUT TO EKE OUT AN EXISTENCE IN REFUGEE CAMPS.

I AM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND THE VERY SERIOUS THREAT OF STARVATION WHICH FACES SEVERAL MILLION PEOPLE. THE CIVIL STRIFE, EXACERBATED BY EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE, CAUSES SEVERE DISRUPTION TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY, ESPECIALLY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND PUTS AT RISK THE DELIVERY OF FOOD SUPPLIES INTO AREAS OF CONFLICT WHERE DROUGHT, AND NOW FAMINE, ARE MENACING THE LOCAL POPULATIONS.

- 5 -

THE RELAXATION OF POLITICAL TENSIONS AND MILITARY RIVALRY AMONGST THE MAJOR POWERS OF THE WORLD CREATE TREMENDOUS MOMENTUM FOR RESOLVING REGIONAL CONFLICTS AND MAY PROVIDE THE OCCASION FOR SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN MILITARY SPENDING. WE MUST SEIZE THESE OPPORTUNITIES.

#### CONCLUSION

MR. CHAIRMAN, DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION OF GROWTH DEPENDS ON OUR PUTTING THE PRIORITY ON APPROPRIATE DOMESTIC POLICIES AND PROGRAMS WHICH PROVIDE FOR A PLURALISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY AND THE SOCIETY. IT DEPENDS ALSO ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONS AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND CAPACITIES TO ALLOW PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST, TO BECOME ENTREPRENEURS, AND TO OVERCOME THEIR OWN PROBLEMS.

CANADA BELIEVES ITS FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS AND THOSE OF ALL NATIONS CAN BEST BE REALIZED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND EFFECTIVE MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS PLAYING A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THIS PROCESS. WE HOPE THIS SPECIAL SESSION IS A HARBINGER OF A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WHICH WILL LEAVE BEHIND OLD AND STERILE DEBATES.

WE ALL SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:

- THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE NECESSARY EXTERNAL RESOURCES TO FACILITATE STRUCTURAL REFORM AND TO HELP ALLEVIATE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE.
- SUPPORT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR COUNTRIES IMPLEMENTING GROWTH-ORIENTED REFORMS TO ASSIST THEM TO MANAGE, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, TO REDUCE THEIR EXTERNAL DEBT BURDEN.
- WE SHOULD DEVELOP A MORE OPEN, CREDIBLE AND DURABLE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TO GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. A SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND WITH SIGNIFICANT MARKET LIBERALIZATION WILL BENEFIT ALL.

CANADA CONTINUES TO COMMIT ITSELF TO THE PROVISION OF A LARGE AND EXPANDING PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO MANY COUNTRIES AND TO THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF MULTILATERAL

- 6 -

INSTITUTIONS. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO HELP COUNTRIES UTILIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES CREATED BY STRUCTURAL REFORM AND TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION WITH EQUITY. CANADA WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO REALIZE THE POTENTIAL OF HUMAN RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS A MAJOR TASK WHICH IS BEFORE US. THE 1990'S HOLD NEW PROMISE AND EXCITEMENT. WE SHALL ALL WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE OUR EXPECTATIONS ARE REACHED HERE IN THE SPECIAL SESSION AND IN THE DECADE TO COME. THANK YOU.



(Check against delivery)

EIGHTEETH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
DEVOTED TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION,  
IN PARTICULAR TO THE REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC  
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

STATEMENT OF H.E. ENRIQUE GARCIA  
MINISTER OF PLANNING AND COORDINATION OF BOLIVIA  
ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77

New York, April 23, 1990.

MISION PERMANENTE DE BOLIVIA ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS  
211 EAST 43 STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

(INFORMAL TRANSLATION)

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates:

Bolivia is honored to begin the debate at this Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly at a time when the topic of the relationship between international cooperation and economic growth and development is coming to the fore.

On behalf of the Group of 77, and on behalf of the Government and people of Bolivia, I wish to extend a welcome to the latest member of the United Nations, the new State of Namibia. Its creation in the wake of a long struggle against oppression and discrimination clearly stands as a tribute to justice and freedom. It also represents a landmark in international negotiations, which, with central participation by the United Nations, culminated in Namibia's peaceful transition to independence. What better occasion than this, the present Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic cooperation and in particular to the economic growth and development of the developing countries, to welcome to this universal forum a new nation which symbolizes the hopes and aspirations of the developing countries to forge a renewed commitment among the community of nations to build a better world.

The Group of 77 also stands ready with open arms to welcome into its midst the State of Namibia, which, we are confident, will contribute to strengthening the group and provide all of us with an occasion for rejoicing.

Mr. President:

The Group of 77, over which Bolivia has the honor to preside, was the main initiator in bringing about this Special Session, because we consider it essential that, in the decade we are now entering, yesterday's negative trends with regard to stability, growth and equity be reversed, and that we embark upon the twenty-first century following a course that will revitalize the development process, thus achieving in turn a more just balance between nations.

The 1980s has been a traumatic decade for the majority of developing countries. Deterioration of the terms of trade, inflation, the debt crisis, the sudden decline in net flows of external capital, and protectionism in the industrialized countries have combined to oblige the majority of developing countries to adopt prolonged and painful programmes of adjustment.



Those adjustment processes have sometimes been the outcome of governmental policy decisions and have sometimes been the automatic result of overriding economic realities. The effect, however, has been the same in virtually every case: substantial reduction in consumption, savings, investment, employment and per capita income, accompanied by a decline in the standard of living of the people. Thus, the situation of the 1980s has contributed to widening the gap between the developing and industrialized countries.

The decade of the 1980s, which we in Latin America refer to as "the wasted decade", must be put behind us. It has, however, left us with important lessons for the future, and it presents us with the challenge of finding innovative strategies to consolidate stability and advance toward economic growth, but a qualitatively better economic growth. Efficient allocation of resources, technological improvement and its concomitant international competitiveness, must combine with creation of productive employment and the enhancement of the human person as the goal and purpose of development. The foregoing implies a better distribution of wealth, satisfaction of the basic needs of the population, elimination of critical poverty, and use of the productive potential of human capital.

This strategy of renewal must also include environmental protection, through endeavours of the industrialized and developing countries based on shared responsibility. Let us not forget that there exists a great ecological debt to the credit of the developing countries which should be contemplated as a key element in any future strategy.

At the same time, the decade of the 1990s, the decade of hope, should be a time for consolidating democracy, freedom and ideological pluralism, as indispensable steps toward better systems for living.

These challenges will require, first and foremost, that the developing countries rely upon appropriate policies. The industrialized countries, for their part, must also have policies conducive to an international environment that encourages development.

If any progress was made in this regard during the wasted decade, it resides in the fact that, by contrast with years past, there is now clear recognition and virtual consensus that appropriate macroeconomic management is fundamental. In this context, reduction of budget deficits, monetary caution, the role of the market in determining prices, and the opening of economies to international trade are the foundations that will help to usher in transition from crisis to stability and from stability to economic growth and social development.

But in order for all of this to be meaningful, there must be symmetry between the actions of developed and industrialized countries. This, unfortunately, has not always been a characteristic feature of international economic relations. Persistently large budget deficits in some industrialized countries, reliance on monetary instruments to control inflation, application of protectionist policies, high real interest rates, curbing of financial flows to developing countries, unstable foreign-exchange markets, and unpredictable commodity prices are all factors that have adversely contributed to aggravating the crisis of the 1980s. It is obvious that a symmetry of policies must be arrived at in order to help create an international environment that stimulates development.

Appropriate macroeconomic management will no doubt have to be accompanied by appropriate development strategies and far-reaching structural changes that will enable countries to adjust not only their policies and institutional framework, but also the attitudes of their peoples: from societies that overemphasize centralism and state paternalism, the transition will be to societies in which the State pursues its normative goals by decentralized means and where individual initiative becomes the driving force of modernization and change.

Structural changes, respecting the specificity and characteristic features of each country, should seek a freer interplay between supply and demand in determining prices, a growing openness of the economy, a reduction and gradual elimination of subsidies and protectionist practices, and a new role for the State. This new State must be qualitatively better, seeking to remedy the failings of the market and to guide the development process according to criteria of efficiency and equity.

But the existence of a renewed strategy for development, appropriate and symmetrical macroeconomic management, and deeper structural changes in the developing countries will not suffice to reactivate their economies or to bring about the change that will close the existing gaps. Allow me to list, with no attempt to be exhaustive, only four of the obstacles that require immediate attention. These are:

1. Solving the problem of debt;
2. Reversing protectionist practices;
3. Applying policies and instruments which endow the terms of trade with greater stability;
4. Increasing net flows of capital and making international cooperation more effective.

As to the question of debt, notwithstanding the advances achieved --the Brady Plan, greater flexibility of the Paris Club rules, including the Toronto treatment and innovative agreements between developing countries-- the debt burden continues to constrain the investment capacity of developing countries.

Without investment there cannot be growth, and without growth there can be no development. That is why this topic remains the centerpiece in restoring macroeconomic equilibrium and moving toward development. The solution of the debt problem therefore deserves the undivided attention of the international community, to bring about concrete action in the short term, including innovative initiatives to permit changes in the profile of non-concessional indebtedness with the multilateral financial agencies.

The second topic, relating to protectionism, and the third, relating to the terms of trade, are undoubtedly crucial to achieving change in international economic relations and ushering in stability and economic growth. In this regard, the speedy and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round is fundamental. We harbor the hope that, together with the foregoing, studies will be undertaken and agreements reached to give greater stability to the prices of the developing countries' raw materials. It is evident that the debt crisis would not have been as severe had the terms of trade been more favorable to the developing countries during the decade of the 1980s.

The fourth topic pertains to the increase in net capital flows. The drastic curtailment of those flows has turned many developing countries into what may more accurately be described as net exporters of capital. While these countries undergo adjustment, poverty is on the rise, the quality of life declines, and inadequate domestic savings obviate satisfactory levels of investment; sums in excess of those received have to be paid out in interests, amortization, and dividends. This intolerable situation must be promptly reversed.

In this regard, official development assistance should attain at least 0.7% of the GDP of the donor countries, a target that had already been set for the 1970s but which was never fulfilled, with some praiseworthy exceptions. We must also insist that at least 20% of that cooperation should be for the benefit of the least developed countries.

Likewise, it is important that multilateral organs such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and those of a regional character, should play a growing role at this stage in the transition from stability to development. They are technical instruments well-suited to the purpose, and should be endowed with the necessary resources, on concessional terms.

With regard to flows of external private capital, we are aware that the precondition for restoring those flows to appropriate levels is a solution to the debt problem. However, with regard to public credits of a commercial nature, or private credits enjoying a public guarantee, mechanisms should be sought for their immediate enhancement. One instrument which may foster this process is to promote co-financing mechanisms with the World Bank and the regional and sub-regional financing organs.

Another crucial factor in enhancing capital flows is direct foreign investment. Attracting such investment depends upon an appropriate macroeconomic setting, transparent rules of the game in the host countries, and policies and mechanisms in the industrialized countries that stimulate their investors. This is another important challenge of the immediate future, not only by its positive effect on the flow of resources, but by the impact which foreign investment has on the transfer of technology, the opening of markets, and management improvement.

I wish to emphasize that each and every one of the foregoing topics should be viewed in an integrated form and not in isolation, because they form part of an organic whole. Clearly, an immediate objective may be curbing inflation and budgetary imbalances, but action in this area will be pointless without resolution of the problems of debt, protectionism, and deteriorating terms of trade. These four aspects, in turn, must be placed within the context of a long-term development strategy which gives meaning to structural change and to the investment required for growth.

Finally, all of these elements will necessarily depend upon increased domestic savings and upon more and better international cooperation, in order to make it possible to pursue economic growth with efficiency and equity but, at the same time, within a framework of macroeconomic stability.

Mr. President:

I would not wish to conclude this statement without alluding to the experience of my country, an experience which makes crystal clear the traumatic effects of the wasted decade, the effort that the adjustment process has meant, and the difficulty inherent in making the transition from stability to economic growth.

At the beginning of the 1980s, Bolivia had to contend with a dictatorial setting in which human rights were constantly violated and drug-trafficking had begun to take over the nation. No sooner had the country, at the expense of great sacrifice, embarked upon democratic life than it was dealt the severe blow of deteriorating terms of trade and rising debt-service. Through the dislocations produced by this situation, Bolivia fell victim to an unprecedented hyperinflation with a steady decline in per capita income and the standards of living of the population.

However, the country shouldered its burden with maturity and determination. As a result, Bolivia today can point with pride to a consolidated democratic process, since three successive governments have been elected by the will of the people during the last 10 years and have assumed power as a result of concurrence among the leading political currents.

Similarly, structural adjustment measures have stabilized the economy, after inflation had reached levels in excess of 24,000% annually. Inflation in the last three years was held to less than 20% per year, and the public-sector deficit has been reduced by more than 30% in relation to GDP, to less than 5%. Likewise, we have reversed the economy's trend toward negative growth, which for six consecutive years wrought a reduction in per capita income nearing 26%. Since 1987, the economy has returned to positive, albeit modest, growth in both GDP and per capita income.

The Government of President Jaime Paz Zamora, democratically elected in 1989, has decided to consolidate stability and press forward with structural change. To that end, in consonance with the ideas of price deregulation and an open economy, an effort is under way to rationalize and trim down the State and give greater impetus to private enterprise. At the same time, our Government takes a view of development which pursues growth together with social improvement.

The foregoing implies a commitment to reallocation of public expenditure to benefit programs that support our human capital through health, education, nutrition and housing. We give special priority to more labour-intensive activities, particularly those aimed at the rural environment, and to eliminating acute poverty. This approach to development is, in turn, devised within the context of environmental conservation, a dimension to which we attach the greatest importance, as demonstrated by the fact that we have declared a five-year ecological moratorium in the country.

With regard to lightening the debt burden, we have taken pioneering strides, such as the imaginative agreements reached with Argentina and Brazil, which made it possible to cancel a substantial part of our bilateral debt. Moreover, recent Paris Club negotiations, under which "Toronto treatment" was granted to Bolivia's bilateral debt, have made possible a substantial reduction in external debt servicing and significant balance-of-payments relief. We extend our appreciation to the member countries of the Paris Club for their constructive decision, which lends support to our process of structural adjustment and change. Allow me also to express the deep gratitude of President Paz Zamora and the people of Bolivia to Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar for his valuable personal endeavours on behalf of my country to obtain Toronto treatment.

Similarly, we are near to reaching agreement on the final phase of repurchase of our debt with international private banking institutions. Let us not forget that three years ago Bolivia broke new ground with a solution to private commercial debt through an innovative mechanism based on the repurchase of its debt in the secondary market with grants from friendly countries.

I cannot fail to refer to Bolivia's commitment to a comprehensive solution to the problem of drug-trafficking. This solution is based on the principle of shared responsibility of producer and consumer countries and on a search for solutions that make it possible simultaneously to develop crop substitutes for coca which are cost-effective and which enjoy access to international markets, eradicating surplus plantings, and pursuing drug-trafficking interdiction activities.

As may be seen, in spite of all these efforts, the country has faced an uphill battle in reversing the negative tendency in economic growth. Bolivia's plans for the next three years cannot project more than a modest 4% to 4.5% growth of GDP, which is consistent with present macroeconomic constraints. It is obvious that, under these conditions, Bolivia will not see its per capita income restored to the level it enjoyed during the 1970s before the start of the next decade.

Mr. President:

The foregoing illustrates clearly the urgency of changing the international rules of the game.

The experience of Bolivia and of the developing countries generally also show how deep is the people's yearning for improvement and social change. Let us not forget that a weariness has set in among the developing countries as a result of the continuous sacrifice demanded of their peoples through unremitting processes of adjustment.

In this context, I must emphasize the importance of global integration, international cooperation and the role of the United Nations in seeking a comprehensive solution to our problems.

The Group of 77 approaches this meeting with high hopes because, as I said at the beginning of my statement, it may represent a historic crossroads that will define the future lines of international cooperation to stabilize the world economy, revitalize the development process, and narrow the gaps that separate the poor countries from the rich. These things are essential in order to consolidate ideological pluralism and democracy and in order to set the world on a course to a more prosperous and just twenty-first century.

Thank you.



# Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

136 EAST 67TH STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

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## Press Release

No. 63  
April 24, 1990

Unofficial translation

### S T A T E M E N T

— BY ERNEST E. OBMINSKY, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE USSR, HEAD OF THE USSR DELEGATION TO THE SPECIAL  
SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IN PARTICULAR TO REVITALIZATION  
OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

April 24, 1990

The Special Session meets at the time when the world development is at a turning point. As if the mankind, having regained consciousness at the very brink of the abyss, tries to free itself from the chains of confrontation and is becoming aware of the integrity of today's world which needs a new philosophy and a new policy. The "cold war" has been arrested. The threat of nuclear holocaust has receded. First steps have been made towards real disarmament and the settlement of regional conflicts. Dialogue is emerging as both the form and the norm of interstate relations.

But "demons of evil" have just retreated and they would not waste time to come back into the fight, if we fail to make the next step: to join forces to eliminate the gigantic disproportions which had accumulated in the world economy. We are ready to contribute to this global cause.

- 2 -

Throughout the world discussions have started regarding possibilities to switch from a military oriented economy to a peacetime economy with the ensuing "peace dividends".

It is often said these days that there is no "peace dividend" and that it was swallowed by the domestic needs of the USSR and the United States. Yet this seems to be a simplistic approach towards the assessment of the disarmament process.

Of course, destruction of the weapons reduced and conversion of military industries to civilian production entail large expenses at the initial stage. However, one cannot fail to see the immense significance of such steps for revitalizing respective national economies and the entire world economy as well. Reductions in military expenditures will secure long-term "peace dividends" through lowering budget deficits, curbing inflation and interest rates, thus ensuring higher growth throughout the world.

The advancement of the new political thinking in world affairs already allowed the Soviet Union to cut its defense budget by 14 per cent this year. The United States also has real possibilities to reduce its military spending.

The potential of "peace dividends" is not limited to Soviet-American relations. The world community looks forward to agreements to be reached at the talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe.

The process of international detente and the settlement of regional conflicts also permits to reduce military expenditure in the developing countries where the overall strength of the armies approaches 20 million people. It is estimated that the purchase of weapons accounts for nearly 25 per cent of the overall foreign debt of middle-income developing countries. Addressing a recent international seminar in Arusha on problems of conflict settlement and crisis prevention, General Secretary of the OAU S.A.Salim stressed that today Africa spends more on weapons than on education, health and other social needs.

Discussions of "peace dividends" will bear sense and perspective if all of us together manage to achieve success in the priority area, i.e. disarmament based on mutual trust, and a total ban on any military adventures that darken the political skies of our planet.

The Soviet Union stands firmly to ensure that both political and economic detente between East and West is developed within the mainstream of efforts to form an integrated structure for the entire world community, in which the interests of developing



- 3 -

countries would be fully respected. These countries are also entitled to their share of the "peace dividends", which will be generated by the intensification and widening of the disarmament process, as well as by development of international economic relations.

Largely due to the end of East-West confrontation, common approaches are taking shape to the problem of external debt in the international economic dialogue. This has been reflected in several resolutions of the UN General Assembly. In fact, it has been recognized that the current debt can neither be paid back nor recovered on the initial terms. Parts of it are now being written off, while payment on other parts is being postponed.

In 1986-1989 the Soviet Union took concrete steps to alleviate the debt burden of developing countries for total amount of 14 billion roubles.

Additional measures are being considered to reduce the debt of the least developed countries, mostly in Africa, which are recipients of Soviet credits.

Notwithstanding considerable difficulties of the transition period faced by the Soviet economy, we continue to provide aid to the third world. The USSR Supreme Soviet allocated the amount of 9.7 billion roubles for the purpose of such aid for 1990. This aid constitutes an important element of our foreign policy built on the principles of priority of universal human values and the freedom of choice.

The Soviet Union's interest in developing countries stems from its unfailing solidarity with those who struggle for equality, social progress, democracy and decent human life. This was expressly stated by USSR President Mikhail S. Gorbachev at the third extraordinary Congress of Soviet People's Deputies.

The USSR stands for the internationalization of approaches to development problems, including matters of aid and debt. Experience accumulated within the United Nations and its specialized agencies could be used as a basis for formulation, on a multilateral level, of general principles for debt settlement which would help to establish a political framework for further concrete talks between creditors and debtors. We hope that an agreement on that issue will be facilitated by the activities of the special representative of the UN Secretary General on debt Mr. B. Craxi.

- 4 -

Mechanisms for multilateral coordination of aid and debt settlement operating both within and outside the UN system have an important role to play in this process. We are prepared to participate in those mechanisms. The recommendations worked out within their framework should correspond to long-term national priorities of recipient countries and should take into account the need to improve the situation of their population.

The debt problem, as well as the problems of slumping commodity prices, interest rates and currency fluctuations, and the growing trade protectionism remain to a large extent beyond the control of developing countries, although it is in the third world that they most painfully manifest themselves.

Today's realities are such that we cannot hope to solve any of these problems separately from the others. The world economy becomes really interdependent and undergoes fundamental structural changes. The current revolution in information and technology, which is unprecedented in scope and intensity, has brought to life a new type of production. The importance of traditional industries decreases. A "dematerialization" of production process is taking place. While opening unique prospects for the development of civilization, the information and technological revolution at the same time aggravates the gap between advanced economies and a large group of nations with traditional industrial and even pre-industrial types of production. Many of them and above all the least developed countries, are in a deep economic crisis which they hardly can cope with by themselves. It should not be allowed that they are "pushed out" of the world economy.

This situation is further aggravated by the demographic aspect. It is estimated that the developing regions, where more than a billion people already live in poverty, will get more than 90 per cent of the expected population growth of our planet by the end of the century with particularly rapid population growth in Africa - by 42 per cent. In order to meet the demographic challenge one would need to solve an intricate web of ethnic, economic, cultural, religious and other problems. This is hardly possible to achieve without mobilizing the whole potential of the UN system.

The revolution in information and technology creates a qualitatively new basis for cooperation in the field of environment protection. There is a need to bring together world's best scientists to develop best technological solutions which would save us from ecological disaster. This leads to establishment of a special regime of the technological exchange which would take into account both common interests and specific needs of each state in accordance with its ecological situation.

Our joint responsibility is to ensure effective preparation for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development which should adopt a common strategy to combat ecological threat by bringing together potentials, possibilities, resources and ideas.

The changes brought about by revolution in information and technology make international markets acquire internal dynamics of their own. In this regard all countries share the challenge of finding ways to adapt to new situations, to prevent and overcome crises. In this context it would be crucial to ensure a complementarity of possibilities of the state and the market.

At the present time there is a growing awareness that many objectives pursued by state in a national economy may be achieved with more efficiency not through rigid centralization but rather through encouraging market mechanisms managed by economic methods, while ensuring adequate social guarantees for the population and equality of all forms of property.

At the international level it is becoming increasingly important to undertake joint action-oriented efforts by governments to limit the volatility of financial flows and irrational fluctuations of exchange rates, commodity and energy prices. There is a growing tendency to coordinate macro-economic policies of states.

Activities of the regional and multilateral economic and financial organizations seem to evolve more and more in that direction. This will open the way to establishing a broader basis for coordination and engaging all groups of countries in this process. This is impossible to achieve without reassessing the concept of economic sovereignty. There is no doubt - and this is accepted by everyone - that each country bears the main responsibility for its development. In the past this notion was predominantly interpreted as a right to conduct national economic activities on a strictly autonomous basis. Under the present conditions, however, every state should take into account international consequences of its economic policy and is responsible for such policy both before its people and the international community.

Naturally, those countries that play a leading role in the international economy have a special responsibility for creating favourable environment for the development of all its components. At the same time the other countries should make their proportionate contributions to this process - first of all, by ensuring the efficiency of their national economies.

Our cooperation with foreign countries shows that a lot remains to be done for a more rational use of internal resources and external credits, promotion of effective methods of economic activities, diversification of production through an optimal correlation between public, cooperative, private and other sectors. In this regard, the expertise of the competent international organizations and exchange of national experience of various countries can be of much help.

New Soviet laws on property, land and lease relations lay the foundation for a new economic system in our country and stimulate free production activities of citizens and all types of enterprises.

A new package of laws is being worked out in order to accelerate reforms and transition to a regulated market economy. They include, among others, legislation on freedom of economic activity and promotion of entrepreneurship, on foreign investments in the Soviet Union, as well as anti-monopoly legislation.

Our plans also include reform of the financial system and of the pricing system, the establishment of commodity exchanges and, at a later stage, stock exchanges.

In accordance with the agreements reached at the Vienna meeting of the States participants in the CSCE process, preparation are being made for introducing new indicators of social and economic development into the Soviet statistics.

All these measures are implemented taking into account generally accepted international standards. Thus necessary conditions are being created for integrating the Soviet economy into the world economy and for the Soviet Union's effective participation in international trade, monetary and financial organizations.

We are confident that active involvement of the USSR and other Eastern European countries in the world economy would contribute to a balanced and sustained development of the latter for the benefit of all members of the international community. A special role in this process should be played by the implementation of the final document adopted at the Bonn economic forum. Economic revitalization of Eastern Europe and progress towards the establishment of an all-European economic space integrated into the world economy meet the interests of all countries, including, of course, developing nations. It is noteworthy that several of these nations are among the founding members of the European bank for reconstruction and development which is being established.

Within the framework of this process Eastern Europe will strengthen its potential as a dynamic trade partner, a promising market, and a source of financial resources and technologies. Certainly, to use these opportunities all parties concerned should vigorously work to develop modern forms of cooperation.

We share a broad endeavour to ensure that the special session should help to reach an economic consensus reflecting the global balance of interests and based on realistic assessments of the objective processes of the world economic development.

In formulating such consensus, the following elements could be considered.

First. The recognition of an interdependent nature of the process of adapting national economies to the world economy. This would mean that the results of such an adaptation are assessed not only from national positions but also from the point of view of consequences for other countries. Agreement on this matter will, no doubt, require to take into account special needs of those developing countries that are unable to solve the problem of adaptation without external support.

Second. Harmonization of national and international factors in the economic policy of states as the basis for a stable and predictable participation of each country in the international economic life. We view the process of such harmonization as a further development of democracy and economic pluralism.

Third. Economic openness of every country as a condition for integration into the world economy. Such economic openness should be understood in the broadest sense, ranging from the availability of statistics to access to markets and technologies, and from the movement of capital, goods, services and manpower to programmes for conversion of military industries to civilian needs. Of course, such openness cannot be introduced simultaneously on a global scale. The special session could proclaim this principle and provide guidance to the appropriate bodies of the UN system, which would then work out recommendations concerning levelling of the openness of national economies.

Fourth. Development through the UN system of generally acceptable and universally applicable international standards, rules and norms in specific areas of social and economic life. In one way or another, many organizations are already engaged in the elaboration of standards in such fields as statistics, trade, technology transfer, transport and telecommunications, environment, natural disaster control, industrial safety, labour relations, health, social security, etc. It is important that

these activities be intensified, that all relevant bodies and organizations of the UN system be oriented towards further development of generally acceptable rules in their respective spheres of competence. We speak here about both international legal instruments that are binding for states which adhered to them and documents having the status of recommendations.

In this context it would be possible to work towards formulating multilateral "rules of conduct" also in such complex areas as the provision of development assistance and ensuring its effective utilization, debt regulation, use of resources released through disarmament for development purposes, openness of national economies, application of international expertise in the implementation of domestic economic reforms, rules of competition in the world markets.

Fifth. Enhancement of the role of the UN system in shaping integral structures of universal economic interaction. Activities aimed at introducing the above mentioned standards and rules in the practice of intergovernmental contacts would certainly contribute to this process.

Besides, the United Nations as a universal organization provides the most appropriate forum for exploring ways of harmonization of integration processes in various regions of the world.

There is a need to strengthen the preventive functions of the UN system in the economic field. This implies regular identification of potential problems in the world economy and preparation, together with the international scientific community, of recommendations concerning joint actions by states to eliminate economic causes of potential social and political crises, regional conflicts and international tension.

All this would broaden the actual possibilities for using the UN system in the implementation of macro-economic policies of States and in the elaboration of practical steps to deal with global problems.

Obviously, the outcome of the special session will substantially influence the restructuring of the social and economic sectors of the UN system. Criteria for such a restructuring include, among other things, increased professionalism of every sectoral body and agency, delimitation of spheres of their competence, elimination of unnecessary duplication and overlap while at the same time strengthening the coordination of social and economic activities within the UN system.

Mr. President,

The report of the Preparatory Committee of the Special Session and the continuing negotiations show that in our work we

have a solid basis which is made up of constructive proposals of the group of 77, Canada, European and many other countries. We should also stress the contribution of the Non-Aligned movement which convenes its ministerial meeting during the special session.

All this gives us hope that by the end of the week we will be able to agree on a consensus document reflecting not just a sum of different interests, but our common determination to contribute with concrete deeds to the strengthening of the economic foundations of a safe and civilized world order, and to a more effective use of the UN mechanisms for promoting multilateral economic cooperation.



**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**  
**MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

155 WEST 66th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10023

**PRESS RELEASE**

(Translation)

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. ZHENG TUOBIN

MINISTER OF  
FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND TRADE  
OF CHINA

AT THE SPECIAL SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
DEVOTED TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION,  
IN PARTICULAR TO THE REVITALIZATION OF  
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

April 24, 1990

(Please check against delivery)



Mr. President,

The Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to International Economic Cooperation, in Particular to the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, the first one of its kind in a full decade, is finally convened thanks to the initiative of the Group of 77 and the joint efforts by all parties. It is particularly significant that our session takes place at a time when international situation is undergoing profound changes as we enter the last decade of the 20th century. We are convinced, Mr. President, that under your able guidance, and with the sincere efforts by all participants, our session will come to a successful conclusion, and will make a worthy contribution to international economic cooperation in the coming decade.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our warm congratulations and welcome to the new member of the Organization, the Republic of Namibia, and to its participation in the Special Session. We believe that the Namibian people, who have recently won independence through protracted and courageous struggles, have an important role to play in international affairs.

Mr. President,

The international community is confronted with a full range of major issues in the decade of 1990's. The development of the third world countries is precisely a major issue of fundamental importance.

In the last decade the world economy has been characterized by serious global imbalances. An essential feature of these imbalances has been the imbalance that exists between the North and the South: While the developed market economies experienced the longest period of continuous economic growth after the Second World War, the development process of developing countries as a whole were bogged down in stagnation. The gap between the North and the South continues to widen, aggravating the tendency of the rich becoming richer, the poor poorer. Until this day, a large number of people in developing countries are still struggling under the poverty line. To correct these imbalances, thus narrowing the gap between the North and the South, and to help revitalize economic growth and development of the developing countries should long have been top priority issues to be addressed by the international community. Regrettably, however, over the last decade, North-South dialogue stalled, and developing countries were further marginalized in the international economic decision-making process.

Protectionist tendencies in the developed countries against the products of developing countries have further intensified and exports of the developing countries have been subject to increasing restrictions. The multilateral trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round are progressing unevenly, with the issues of interest to developing countries moving at a slow pace. Developed countries are increasingly resorting to regional trade blocs and bilateral arrangements. The impact of this tendency on world trade, particularly on the trade and development of the developing countries, have already caused concerns in the international community. Primary commodity prices have been on the decline for most of the time during the last ten years and the terms of trade of the developing countries kept deteriorating. The developing countries continue to suffer from the crippling debt burden and the scarcity of development funds. And for the first time since the end of the Second World War, there occurred a

negative net transfer of financial resources from the developing to the developed countries. Transfer of technology to developing countries runs up against all kinds of obstacles. Per capita income in many developing countries has kept falling. Years of poverty has trapped them in a vicious circle of under-development and environmental degradation. The adjustment programmes imposed upon them often result in deteriorating living standards and social instability. Macro-economic policy coordination among developed countries has been carried out with little regard for the interests of the developing countries. All these factors have added to the uncertainties in the prospects of world economy, particularly the economies of the developing countries.

Mr. President,

The question naturally arises: why, for almost a decade, did so many developing countries encounter the above-mentioned adverse external economic conditions? This indeed is a very challenging issue. Developments in the last decade have indisputably revealed that these have their cause in the present inequitable and irrational international economic order. Without an overhaul of the present economic order, the development efforts of the developing countries can hardly be rewarded with success, nor can world prosperity and stability be ensured. This gives added urgency and relevance to the call for a new international economic order.

The international community cannot afford to lose another decade. In meeting the challenges of the 1990's, what is needed is foresight, cooperation on the basis of equality and commitments to action. In this regard, the Special Session should make a good beginning by reaching a new global consensus on launching a new round of substantive and meaningful North-South dialogue, and on strengthening international economic cooperation for common development in the 1990's.

In light of the experience of the 1980's, we believe that the following principles can provide the basis for a new consensus to enhance international economic cooperation.

Firstly, the development model of a country must be decided upon by its own people in the light of its own conditions.

The road a country takes to development, the strategy and model it decides upon can only be based on its historical and present imperatives as well as its people's will, and must be capable of unleashing the dynamism of its people and be able to adapt to the constantly changing world economic environment. We therefore believe that the primary responsibility for development lies with the developing countries themselves. No country or organization should interfere in the development policies of other countries. Attempts at imposing certain kinds of models as panacea for development is both unrealistic and most harmful. Such a practices must be firmly rejected in international economic relations.

At present, a few developed countries are using their economic leverage to exert political pressure on developing countries or even interfere in their domestic affairs. This tendency is detrimental to international economic relations. Such conducts not only impair the development of friendly and cooperative relations among nations on the basis of five

principles of peaceful co-existence, but also pose a threat to world stability and development.

Secondly, there must be an improved international economic environment.

Owing to their weakness in economic structure due to historical reasons, developing countries are vulnerable to changes in the international economic environment. They are also frequently excluded from the process of international economic decision-making. This further reduces their ability to master the course of their economic development. Whether the economies of the developing countries can take a turn for the better in the 1990's largely depends on a significant improvement of the international economic environment and the effective support from the international community. In this respect, developed countries, particularly the major developed countries have an inescapable responsibility.

As the formulation of macro-economic policies of the major developed countries and the policy coordination among them have extensive and significant impact on developing countries, the interests of the latter must be taken into full consideration. At a time when economic relations among countries become increasingly closer, all countries should have a right to participate fairly in the process of international coordination, rather than having one or a few countries making decisions for all. The macro-economic policies of major developed countries, which have significant external impact, should be placed under appropriate multilateral surveillance.

The United Nations is the most representative and influential international organization. The promotion of multilateral economic cooperation and coordination is its indefeasible function as enshrined in the Charter. Peoples of all countries place high hope on the United Nations. It should play a much larger role in the creation of a more favorable international economic environment.

Thirdly, the revitalization of the economic growth and development of the developing countries must be the primary objective of international economic cooperation.

The developing countries, as a whole, are facing grave difficulties in their economic development. The revitalization of growth and development of these countries therefore must be the focus of and an urgent task for international economic cooperation. Without solving the development problems of four fifths of the world population, it would neither be possible to achieve sustained and stable growth of the world economy, nor to maintain international peace and security. The international community must face this question squarely and must search for positive solutions. It is therefore necessary and appropriate that this Special Session should focus on the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries.

Mr. President,

In line with the above principles, effective measures are urgently required to be taken in the interrelated areas so as to alleviate the grave

difficulties of the developing countries. These measures should, inter alia, include:

1. Substantial reduction of the debt stock of the developing countries and their debt servicing burden. The solution to the debt problem should be oriented toward the revitalization of growth and development in the debtor developing countries and should be considered together with the problems of commodity, trade, resource flows, money and finance with a view to enhancing the debt-servicing capability of developing countries. In this connection, developed countries need to take effective measures.

2. Urgent reversal of the net transfer of resources from developing countries to developed ones. The latter should increase the flow of resources, particularly those on concessional terms, to developing countries and reach the internationally agreed ODA targets at an early date. Recent developments in the international situation should not affect the already limited flow of resources to developing countries. The relevant international organizations must closely monitor changes in this regard.

3. Halting trade protectionism and increasing the export of manufactured goods of developing countries. Developed countries must honor their commitments to the standstill and rollback of protectionism by way of eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers against developing countries, granting differential and preferential treatment to the exports of developing countries and providing better market access for their products. The unbalanced pattern of progress in the new round of multilateral trade negotiations must be rectified and substantive progress be made as soon as possible in the negotiations on the questions of concern to developing countries.

4. Stabilization of prices of primary commodities and increase in the export earnings of developing countries. The international community, the developed countries in particular, should assist the developing countries in participating fully in the processing, marketing, distribution and transportation of primary products, promote the diversification of their production and export, improve the existing compensatory financing facilities for shortfalls in export earnings and consider the establishment of other new and comprehensive compensatory mechanisms. The Common Fund for Commodities, which has entered into force, should start operation as soon as possible.

5. Ensuring the fair sharing by the developing countries of the achievements of new advances in science and technology, actively promoting transfer of needed technology to these countries as well as developing their human resources with a view to narrowing the gap between developed and developing countries in science and technology. The restrictions and obstacles placed by the developed countries in this field should be removed.

6. Taking an integrated approach to environmental protection and economic development, providing additional resources and accelerating transfer of related technology in order to help the developing countries build up their capability for environmental protection. In addressing the global environmental issues, the special needs and difficulties of the developing countries should be given full consideration.

7. Providing special assistance to the least developed countries, low income countries and other developing countries which suffer from geographical disadvantages or serious natural disasters, including the formulation of a program of action for the least developed countries for the 1990's.

8. According top priority in international cooperation to the elimination of poverty in developing countries.

Mr. President,

Later this year, the General Assembly is scheduled to prepare and adopt the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade; the Second UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries will take place in September, the Eighth UN Conference on Trade and Development will be held next year and the UN Conference on Environment and Development will be convened in 1992. These and other activities testify to the fact that the strengthening of international economic cooperation for development has become a matter of universal concern on the international agenda in the 1990's. It also adds to the unique significance of this session. It is the hope of the Chinese delegation that this Special Session will demonstrate a spirit of cooperation by adopting a foresighted and action-oriented final document which will provide clear guidelines for the above-mentioned activities and a good basis for the enhanced international economic cooperation in the 1990's

Mr. President,

I would like to take this opportunity to give a brief account of the development in China.

China is a developing socialist country. The Chinese people have been engaged in a long and active quest for a development course which conforms to the realities of the country. History has taught us that focusing on economic construction, implementing the policies of reform and opening to the outside world and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics represent the only way of lifting the Chinese nation out of poverty and making China strong and prosperous. Four decades of hard work, especially efforts over the last ten years, have brought about tremendous changes in the Chinese economy and society. The Chinese government is now devoted to the objective of building up a modernized economy, namely, to increase the country's per capita GNP to that of a medium income developed country by the middle of the 21st century.

The reform in China is aimed at establishing a system which is adapted to the realities in China and a system that integrates planned economy with market regulation to ensure sustained, stable and coordinated economic development.

China's opening to the outside world means developing economic and trade relations with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, actively absorbing external resources and learning from foreign scientific and technological achievements and managerial experience, including active participation in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

After a decade of reform and opening-up, China's gross national product has doubled, the volume of import and export has increased four times, people's living standard is noticeably improved. Sooner than expected, the targets for the first stage of modernization are already a reality. Facts have shown that the basic policy we have so far implemented is in line with the realities in China. It is a correct policy which enjoys the wholehearted support of the Chinese people of all nationalities. And, therefore, it will not change in any event.

At present, our country is focusing on improving the economic environment and rectifying the economic order. While adhering to the policies of reform and opening-up, we are adjusting certain specific policies, cooling down the over-heated economy, improving macro-control and putting to an end to the chaotic situation in some areas. This is by no means a retreat from the policies of reform and opening-up. It is only aimed at creating necessary conditions for better implementation of our established policy, promoting sustained, stable and coordinated development of our national economy and accomplishing the strategic target of the second stage of modernization, namely, to double our GNP once again in the last decade of this century. In this connection, a stable environment is essential. we are therefore taking effective measures to maintain political, economic and social stability in China. The Chinese government will continue its domestic and foreign policies which have been proved effective by history. We will also help advance international situation in the direction favorable for peace and development. Facts will further prove that an independent, stable and prosperous China will make a greater contribution to human progress.

Thank you, Mr. President.



MISSION PERMANENTE D'OBSERVATION  
DE LA SUISSE AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES

SESSION EXTRAORDINAIRE DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE  
CONSACREE A LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE INTERNATIONALE,  
ET EN PARTICULIER A LA RELANCE DE LA CROISSANCE  
ECONOMIQUE ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT  
DANS LES PAYS EN DEVELOPPEMENT

Déclaration de la Suisse prononcée par  
le Secrétaire d'Etat F. Blankart

New York, le 24 avril 1990

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THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
DEVOTED TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION,  
IN PARTICULAR TO THE REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH  
AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Statement of Switzerland

English version abridged and translated from the French original

Monsieur le Président,

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de joindre mes chaleureuses félicitations à toutes celles qui ont été adressées à la Namibie pour son accession à l'indépendance. Pendant la période de transition qui a précédé cette indépendance, la Suisse a tenu à s'associer à l'effort international de maintien de la paix; une opération ambitieuse menée à bien grâce au savoir-faire de l'ONU et à la diplomatie de son Secrétaire général. La Namibie enrichit la communauté internationale d'un apport politique, économique et culturel unique.

Cette accession à l'indépendance démontre non seulement la confiance accrue accordée aux Nations Unies pour le règlement pacifique de conflits, mais également les changements fondamentaux intervenus sur l'échiquier politique et économique international. A ce titre, je distinguerai :

- l'émergence de nouvelles relations entre l'Est et l'Ouest, ainsi que l'influence décroissante des idéologies;
- les changements en cours en Europe centrale et orientale visant l'établissement de structures politiques et économiques pluralistes;
- la mise en oeuvre par nombre de pays en développement de politiques de réformes profondes afin de mieux tenir compte des réalités économiques et de la richesse du potentiel humain;
- le mouvement vers la création d'un marché unique en Europe, la coopération accrue entre pays du continent nord-américain et d'une manière plus générale, l'extension de la coopération économique régionale dans le monde;
- l'impact sur l'environnement humain et les structures de production du progrès scientifique et technologique et la révolution de l'information.

Ces changements présentent autant d'occasions à saisir que de risques et de défis à affronter en commun. Nous avons tous reconnu le besoin d'une croissance économique qui met le bien-être de l'individu dans son contexte social et écologique au centre des préoccupations.

Les conséquences heureuses de ces développements sont évidentes : une croissance économique soutenable, fondée sur le bien-être individuel, la justice sociale et la sécurité de toutes les populations de notre planète, est aujourd'hui plus proche. De même, les nouvelles technologies offrent des perspectives encourageantes pour faire face aux enjeux planétaires tels la lutte contre la faim et les épidémies ou la préservation de l'environnement.

Quels sont les défis auxquels nous sommes confrontés ?



Le premier défi concerne le processus de démocratisation et de libéralisation en Europe centrale et orientale, en particulier les problèmes de transition, d'une économie dirigée vers une économie de marché. Tout échec de ce processus délicat remettrait en cause l'amélioration des relations politiques en Europe et dans le monde. Les bouleversements en Europe centrale et orientale concernent tous les membres de la communauté internationale. Les pays industrialisés, notamment d'Europe occidentale, sont naturellement appelés à apporter un soutien particulier aux réformes entreprises.

Ce soutien - et c'est un deuxième défi d'importance capitale - ne devra pas se faire aux dépens des pays en développement. Ces pays se trouvent dans des situations très inégales, souvent précaires pour affronter les défis d'aujourd'hui, mais aussi de demain. Pour trop de pays en développement le fossé qui les sépare du reste du monde continue de se creuser.

Afin d'écartier le risque de décrochage - incompatible avec le but des Nations Unies d'oeuvrer pour un monde plus juste - la poursuite des efforts amorcés par les pays concernés est nécessaire. L'objectif prioritaire de ces efforts réside dans le rétablissement d'un cadre économique propice à la croissance qui favorise l'épargne, l'investissement et le retour des capitaux en fuite ainsi que l'amélioration des conditions de vie des couches les plus défavorisées de la population afin de les faire participer à la vie économique et sociale. La solidarité au sein même des pays en développement doit s'accompagner d'une solidarité internationale.

Les gouvernements de nombreux pays pauvres doivent d'autant plus être soutenus par la communauté internationale que les pressions auxquelles ils doivent faire face ont en partie pour origine des déséquilibres extérieurs. Ceux-ci sont difficilement influençables et frappent lourdement les économies faibles, peu diversifiées. L'appui de la communauté internationale doit, entre autres, revêtir les trois formes suivantes :

- un environnement économique international propice à la croissance dont la responsabilité première incombe aux pays industrialisés;
- une ouverture aux échanges et aux investissements internationaux;
- un transfert de ressources financières et techniques qui permet de combler des déficits temporaires et de maintenir des programmes prioritaires.

Les partenaires économiques les plus faibles ne doivent en effet pas assumer seuls le poids de l'ajustement. Comme nous l'avions affirmé à la CNUCED VII, la responsabilité commune de tous les pays est engagée.

Pour que les pays en développement retrouvent le chemin d'une

croissance soutenable, nous devons faire face ensemble à un troisième défi : le surendettement. Celui-ci constitue en effet une hypothèque sérieuse pour l'avenir des pays concernés. Il est admis maintenant que toute solution aux problèmes de surendettement doit se fonder en premier lieu sur les efforts propres des débiteurs. L'expérience a toutefois démontré que ces efforts doivent être complétés dans de nombreux cas, par des mesures additionnelles. A juste titre, les stratégies mises en oeuvre visent avant tout à rétablir la solvabilité des pays endettés. Elles ont obtenu des résultats appréciables, mais pas toujours suffisants. Pays débiteurs, créanciers privés et publics doivent donc continuer leur recherche de solutions adaptées à chaque situation et cela dans un esprit novateur.

Le quatrième défi concerne la poursuite de la libéralisation des échanges. Une telle libéralisation est à la fois un puissant instrument d'ajustement des économies, donc d'une meilleure allocation de ressources et un garant contre les pressions protectionnistes.

La place occupée par les pays en développement dans les relations économiques internationales dépendra en grande partie de leur capacité à utiliser le formidable moteur de croissance que constitue le commerce international. Le potentiel d'expansion des échanges dépend du maintien et du renforcement d'un système multilatéral ouvert.

La réponse à ce quatrième défi est amorcée actuellement dans le cadre des négociations de l'Uruguay Round au GATT. Ces négociations abordent pour la première fois des sujets autres que les échanges de biens. Elles constituent une réponse politique et institutionnelle aux bouleversements en cours et aux réalités nouvelles. Parmi les thèmes centraux de la négociation, celui de la pleine intégration des pays en développement dans l'économie mondiale répond à une préoccupation constante de la Suisse. Cette intégration ne saurait toutefois se réaliser sans que les pays en développement n'assument progressivement toutes les obligations du système. Une issue de l'Uruguay Round qui tienne compte des intérêts de toutes les parties en présence, y compris des pays en développement, constituerait un formidable moteur de croissance pour les années 1990.

La rapidité des bouleversements macro-économiques ne saurait nous faire oublier un cinquième défi : le renforcement de l'assistance technique au développement. Cette dernière a obtenu des résultats remarquables, par exemple dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la formation, de la santé, de la production alimentaire et de la préservation des terres et forêts.

Ce renforcement de l'assistance technique se justifie non seulement par les besoins considérables, mais aussi par sa contribution au succès durable des efforts d'ajustement. Dans ce contexte, il ne faut pas oublier que la diversification de la production reste, dans de nombreux pays, une tâche de longue haleine qui demandera un soutien financier et technique prolongé.

Pour terminer cette énumération, je ne saurais manquer d'aborder un sixième défi : celui de la préservation de l'équilibre écologique et de l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources naturelles. Une croissance n'est soutenable que si elle s'appuie sur une utilisation rationnelle des ressources existantes. Nous devons intégrer de manière plus systématique et complète les coûts écologiques dans les décisions économiques.

La Suisse se félicite de la prise de conscience croissante de la problématique de la dégradation rapide de l'environnement et de l'initiative que cette Assemblée a prise à cet égard en lançant les préparations pour la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement qui aura lieu en 1992. Il s'agit là d'un défi hautement complexe qui touche des domaines aussi différents que l'impact de la pression démographique sur la dégradation des terres et la disparition des forêts et de la faune ou encore de la pollution sur la couche d'ozone. Nous sommes tous appelés à assumer nos responsabilités dans ce domaine. Ce tableau des bouleversements récents, des opportunités et des risques qui en découlent n'est sans aucun doute pas exhaustif. Il traduit notre conviction que tous les Etats sont appelés à fournir de nouveaux efforts et à faire preuve d'une ouverture au changement plus grande. Dans un monde où l'Etat peut de moins en moins se soustraire aux influences extérieures et à l'impact international de ses actions, les efforts de chacun doivent être complétés par une coopération internationale plus étroite et plus efficace.

L'histoire des dernières décennies montre que l'Etat doit servir la société et assumer son rôle avec modestie en s'appuyant sur les richesses politiques, économiques, sociales et culturelles de ses populations. Les principes d'universalité et de solidarité sur lesquels la Suisse fonde ses relations avec le reste du monde garantissent la participation active de mon pays aux initiatives visant à renforcer la coopération internationale. La Suisse ne perçoit pas l'interdépendance comme une menace latente mais bien comme le fondement des relations entre les Nations. Le renforcement de la coopération internationale doit permettre à chaque pays d'assumer ses responsabilités en fonction de ses capacités et de ses moyens. Finalement, cette coopération doit aussi être ferment de l'épanouissement de tout être humain, à qui - en dernier ressort - la liberté ne peut ni être prise, ni donnée, car c'est cet être humain qui contient lui-même toute source de liberté.

English version abridged and translated from the French original

Mr President,

First of all I should like to express my warmest congratulations on the access to independence of Namibia. Switzerland has participated in the peace-keeping efforts during the transition period. The success of this operation is due to the efficiency and diplomatic skills of the UN and its Secretary General. It also underlines the fundamental changes on the international political and economic scene among which I will note the following:

- the emergence of new East-West relations and the decreasing impact of ideologies
- the changes in Central and Eastern Europe towards pluralistic political and economic structures
- the implementation of far-reaching reforms in developing countries taking into account economic realities and the wealth of their human potential
- closer economic cooperation in Europe, North America and elsewhere
- the impact on the human environment and on production patterns of accelerated progress in technology and communication

These changes represent tremendous opportunities as well as risks and challenges. We have all recognised that economic growth should enhance the well-being of the individual in its social and ecological context. The positive consequences of these developments are obvious: there is today an increased likelihood for sustainable economic growth based on the well-being of the individual, on social justice and security of all people. Also, thanks to the new technologies the solution to global problems such as the eradication of hunger and disease or the preservation of the environment is now nearer within reach of our possibilities.

I see six different challenges which we are facing today:

- 1) Democratisation and liberalisation in Central and Eastern Europe and in particular the transition from planned to market economies. Failure in this difficult process would inevitably affect political relations in Europe and elsewhere. The industrialised nations, especially in Western Europe, are naturally called upon to assist in these reforms.
- 2) Such assistance must not, however, be provided at the expense of the developing countries. Growing diversity amongst them and vis-à-vis the rest of the world is incompatible with the objective of the United Nations for a more equitable world. Efforts for reform in those countries must therefore continue with a view to an economic framework favorable to growth,

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increased savings, investments and the return of flight capital as well as the improvement of living conditions for the least privileged and their participation in economic and social life. Solidarity within developing countries must be accompanied by international solidarity.

International support is also necessary in view of the fact that some of the problems faced by poor countries are due to external disequilibria. Such support is required in three fields:

- the industrialised countries bear a primary responsibility for the establishment of an international economic environment conducive to growth
- liberalisation of trade and investment flows
- financial resources bridging temporary deficits and maintaining priority programmes.

The weakest members of the world economy can not and should not be obliged to bear alone the cost of adjustment. At UNCTAD VII we have established the common responsibility of all countries.

- 3) Excessive indebtedness of developing countries is the third challenge we have to face in common. Experience has shown that, although debtor countries must make the principal effort to solve their problems, complementary measures aiming at the reestablishment of a country's solvability are often necessary. Such measures have obtained considerable if not always sufficient results. Debtor countries, private and public creditors must therefore continue their efforts for finding innovative solutions adapted to each particular situation.
- 4) Continuation of trade liberalisation as a powerful means of economic adjustment and improved resource allocation as well as a guarantee against protectionism. The Uruguay Round negotiations of the GATT are a response to this fourth challenge, dealing for the first time with subjects other than trade in goods. One of the main objectives is the full integration of developing countries in the world economy. This integration will however become a reality only if the developing countries progressively shoulder all obligations of the multilateral trading system. A successful outcome of the Uruguay Round taking into account the interests of all parties, including those of the developing countries, would constitute a powerful motor of growth for the 1990's.
- 5) The rapidly evolving macro-economic environment must not shove aside the need for further strengthening of development assistance. Some remarkable results have been obtained through such assistance, for instance in the education and training and in the health sectors, in food production and in soil and forest conservation.

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However, the strengthening of technical assistance is not only necessary in view of the urgent needs, but also as a contribution to the adjustment efforts. One must not forget in this context that the need for economic diversification is in many countries a long-term task demanding continuous financial and technical support.

- 6) Finally, sustainable growth is indeed possible only if it reestablishes and preserves the ecologic equilibrium and is based on a sustainable utilisation of natural resources. We need to integrate in a more systematic and complete manner environmental costs into economic decisions.

Switzerland notes with satisfaction the increasing awareness of environmental degradation. This highly complex challenge concerns various areas such as the impact of demographic pressure on soil fertility and forest degradation or the impact of industrial pollution on the ozone layer. We all have to live up to our responsibilities in this respect.

This presentation of recent changes and their consequences in terms of opportunities and challenges is far from being complete. It does however express our conviction that all States will have to make renewed efforts in a spirit of increased openness to these changes. In a world in which every country has to face increasing external influences and the international impact of its actions, individual efforts have to be completed by an ever closer and more efficient international cooperation.

The history of the last decades shows that the State must serve the society and play its role with modesty, based on the political, economic, social and cultural wealth of its people. The principles of universality and solidarity on which Switzerland has established its relations with the rest of the world are a guarantee of our active participation in the initiatives for the strengthening of international cooperation. Interdependence is not a potential threat for us but the very cornerstone of international relations. The reinforcement of international cooperation must allow every country to shoulder its responsibilities in line with its capacities and means. Such a cooperation is also a ferment for the self-achievement of every individual. In the final analysis, freedom can neither be given to nor taken away from the individual, for the source of freedom lies within the human being.

SONDERSESSION DER UNO-GENEVERALVERSAMMLUNG  
UEBER INTERNATIONALE WIRTSCHAFTSZUSAMMENARBEIT, NEW YORK

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ERKLÄRUNG DER SCHWEIZ, VORGETRAGEN VON STAATSEKRETÄR  
FRANZ BLANKART

HERR PRÄSIDENT,

GESTATTEN SIE MIR ZUNÄCHST, NAMIBIA MEINE AUFRICHTIGEN GLÜCK-  
WÜNSCHE FÜR DESSEN UNABHÄNGIGKEIT AUSZUSPRECHEN. WÄHREND DER  
UEBERGANGSZEIT, DIE ZU DIESER UNABHÄNGIGKEIT FÜHRTE, LAG ES  
DER SCHWEIZ DARAN, AM INTERNATIONALEN ENGAGEMENT ZUR AUFRICHT-  
ERHALTUNG DES FRIEDENS IN DIESER REGION TEILZUNEHMEN, EIN  
AMBITIÖSES UNTERNEHMEN, DAS DANK DEM KÖNNEN DER UNO UND DER  
DIPLOMATIE IHRES GENERALSEKRETÄRS MIT ERFOLG BEWERKSTELLIGT  
WERDEN KONNTE. NAMIBIA BEREICHERT DIE INTERNATIONALE GEMEIN-  
SCHAFT DURCH EINEN EIGENSTÄNDIGEN BEITRAG AUF POLITISCHEM,  
WIRTSCHAFTLICHEM UND KULTURELLEM GEBIET.

DIE ERMÖGLICHUNG DIESER UNABHÄNGIGKEIT VERWEIST NICHT NUR  
AUF DAS ZUNEHMENDE VERTRAUEN, DAS DIE VEREINIGTEN NATIONEN  
BEI DER FRIEDLICHEN BEILEGUNG VON STREITIGKEITEN GENIESSEN,  
SONDERN AUCH AUF DIE GRUNDLEGENDEN VERÄNDERUNGEN, DIE AUF  
DEM POLITISCHEN UND WIRTSCHAFTLICHEN SCHACHBRETT DIESER WELT  
EINGETRETEN SIND. IN DIESEM ZUSAMMENHANG MÖCHTE ICH AUF FÜNF  
ELEMENTE HINWEISEN:

- AUF DAS ENTSTEHEN NEUER BEZIEHUNGEN ZWISCHEN WEST UND OST UND DIE VERRINGERUNG DER IDEOLOGISCHEN EINFLÜSSE;
- AUF DIE UMWÄLZUNGEN IN MITTEL- UND OSTEUROPA ZU GUNSTEN PLURALISTISCHER STRUKTUREN IN POLITIK UND WIRTSCHAFT;
- AUF DIE REFORMPOLITIKEN ZAHLREICHER ENTWICKLUNGSLÄNDER, DIE ZUM ZIELE HABEN, DEN WIRTSCHAFTLICHEN REALITÄTEN UND DEM REICHTUM DER MENSCHLICHEN RESSOURCEN BESSER RECHNUNG ZU TRAGEN;
- AUF DIE SCHAFFUNG EINES BINNENMARKTES IN EUROPA, DIE VERSTÄRKTE ZUSAMMENARBEIT IN NORDAMERIKA UND GANZ ALLGEMEIN AUF DIE WELTWEITE INTENSIVIERUNG DER REGIONALEN KOOPERATION; UND SCHLIESSLICH
- AUF DEN EINFLUSS, DEN DER BESCHLEUNIGTE FORTSCHRITT IN WISSENSCHAFT UND FORSCHUNG SOWIE DIE INFORMATIK-REVOLUTION AUF DAS UMFELD DES MENSCHEN UND DIE PRODUKTIONSSTRUKTUREN AUSÜBT.

DIESE UMWÄLZUNGEN BERGEN EBENSO VIELE RISIKEN WIE HERAUSFORDERUNGEN. DIE NOTWENDIGKEIT EINES WIRTSCHAFTLICHEN WACHSTUMS, WELCHES DAS WOHLBEFINDEN DES MENSCHEN IN SEINEM SOZIALEN UND ÖKOLOGISCHEN ZUSAMMENHANG STÄRKER INS ZENTRUM RÜCKT, IST ERKANNT.

DIE CHANCEN SIND JEDOCH OFFENSICHTLICH: VERNÜNFTIGES WIRTSCHAFTSWACHSTUM AUF DER GRUNDLAGE DES INDIVIDUELLEN WOHLERGEHENS SOWIE SOZIALE GERECHTIGKEIT UND SICHERHEIT FÜR ALLE VÖLKER DIESER ERDE SIND ERREICHBARE ZIELE GEWORDEN. ZUDEM ERÖFFNEN DIE NEUEN TECHNOLOGIEN ERMUTIGENDE PERSPEKTIVEN, UM PLANETAREN GEFÄHRDUNGEN - HUNGER, KRANKHEIT UND UMWELTZERSTÖRUNG - ENTGEGENZUTRETEN.



WELCHES SIND, VOR DIESEM HINTERGRUND, DIE HERAUSFORDERUNGEN, DENEN WIR GEGENÜBERSTEHEN?

DIE ERSTE HERAUSFORDERUNG BETRIFFT DEN PROZESS DER DEMOKRATISIERUNG UND LIBERALISIERUNG IN MITTEL- UND OSTEUROPA, UND IM BESONDEREN DIE PROBLEME DES UEBERGANGS VON DER PLAN- ZUR MARKTWIRTSCHAFT. EIN MISSEFOLG DIESER VERLETZLICHEN ENTWICKLUNG WÜRDIE DIE VERBESSERUNG DER POLITISCHEN BEZIEHUNGEN IN EUROPA UND IN DER WELT IN FRAGE STELLEN. DIE UMWÄLZUNGEN IN MITTEL- UND OSTEUROPA BETREFFEN SOMIT DIE GESAMTE STAATENGEMEINSCHAFT, WENNGLEICH ES DIE INDUSTRIESTAATEN, VORNEHMLICH WESTEUROPAS, SIND, DIE DEN HAUPTBEITRAG ZUR UNTERSTÜTZUNG DER EINGELEITETEN REFORMEN ZU ERBRINGEN HABEN.

DIESE UNTERSTÜTZUNG - UND DIES IST DIE ZWEITE HERAUSFORDERUNG - DARF NICHT AUF KOSTEN DER ENTWICKLUNGSLÄNDER ERFOLGEN. DIESE LÄNDER BEFINDEN SICH IN RECHT UNTERSCHIEDLICHEN SITUATIONEN. UND SIND VIELFACH SCHWERLICH IN DER LAGE, DEN PROBLEMEN VON HEUTE UND MORGEN WIRKSAM ZU BEGEGNEN. FÜR VIELE UNTER IHNEN VERGRÖSSERT SICH DER GRABEN, DER SIE VOM REST DER WELT TRENNT.

DIE ABKOPPELUNG WÜRDIE DEM UNO-ZIEL DER SCHAFFUNG EINER GERECHTEREN WELT ENTGEGENLAUFEN. DAS RISIKO EINER SOLCHEN ABKOPPELUNG KANN NUR GEBANNT WERDEN, WENN DIE EIGENANSTRENGUNGEN DER BETREFFENDEN LÄNDER FORTGESETZT WERDEN, EIGENANSTRENGUNGEN, DEREN ZWECK ES IST, DIE INTERNEN WIRTSCHAFTLICHEN RAHMENBEDINGUNGEN DERGESTALT ZU VERBESSERN, DASS DIE SPARTÄTIGKEIT UND DIE INVESTITIONEN GEFÖRDERT SOWIE DIE GELDFLUCHT RÜCKGÄNGIG GEMACHT WERDEN, DIES MIT DEM ZIEL, DIE LEBENSBEDINGUNGEN DER

ÄRMSTEN BEVÖLKERUNGSSCHICHTEN ZU VERBESSERN UND IHRE TEILNAHME AM WIRTSCHAFTLICHEN UND SOZIALEN LEBEN ZU ERMÖGLICHEN. HIERBEI MUSS DIE SOLIDARITÄT UNTER ENTWICKLUNGSLÄNDERN DURCH EINE WELTWEITE SOLIDARITÄT ERGÄNZT WERDEN.

DIE REGIERUNGEN DER ARMEN LÄNDER MÜSSEN UM SO STÄRKER DURCH DIE INTERNATIONALE GEMEINSCHAFT UNTERSTÜTZT WERDEN, ALS DIE SCHWIERIGKEITEN, DENEN SIE BEGEGNEN, Z.T. IN WELTWEITEN UNGLEICHGEWICHTEN IHRE URSACHE FINDEN. DIESE UNGLEICHGEWICHTE KÖNNEN SIE KAUM BEEINFLUSSEN, WÄHREND IHRE SCHWACHEN, WENIG DIVERSIFIZIERTEN VOLKSWIRTSCHAFTEN STARK DURCH SIE BEEINTRÄCHTIGT WERDEN. DIE UNTERSTÜTZUNG DURCH DIE INTERNATIONALE GEMEINSCHAFT HAT DREI ZIELE ANZUSTREBEN:

- WELTWEITE WIRTSCHAFTLICHE RAHMENBEDINGUNGEN, DIE DEM WACHSTUM FÖRDERLICH SIND, WAS PRIMÄR AUFGABE DER INDUSTRIESTAATEN IST;
- DIE WELTWEITE OEFFNUNG DER WAREN- UND INVESTITIONSMÄRKTE;  
UND
- DAS ZURVERFÜGUNG-STELLEN FINANZIELLER UND TECHNISCHER RESSOURCEN, WELCHE ES ERLAUBEN, TEMPORÄRE DEFIZITE ZU ÜBERBRÜCKEN UND PRIORITÄRE PROGRAMME AUFRECHT ZU ERHALTEN.

ES SIND NICHT DIE SCHWÄCHSTEN WIRTSCHAFTSPARTNER, DENEN DIE LAST DER ANPASSUNG ALLEINE ÜBERBUNDEN WERDEN DARF. WIE WIR ES AM SCHLUSS DER UNCTAD VII SCHON FESTGEHALTEN HABEN, IST

DIE VERANTWORTLICHKEIT ALLER STAATEN GEFORDERT.

UM DEN ENTWICKLUNGSLÄNDERN DEN WEG ZUM WIRTSCHAFTLICHEN WACHSTUM ZU EBENEN, MÜSSEN WIR - GEMEINSAM - EINER DRITTEN HERAUSFORDERUNG ENTGEGENTRETEN, JENER DER VERSCHULDUNG. LETZTERE IST FÜR DIE BETROFFENEN LÄNDER EINE SCHWERE HYPOTHEK. ES STEHT HEUTE ALLGEMEIN FEST, DASS DIE LÖSUNG DIESES PROBLEMS PRIMÄR AUS DEN EIGENANSTRENGUNGEN DER SCHULDNERLÄNDER SELBST ZU ERWACHSEN HAT. DIE ERFAHRUNG HAT INDESSEN GEZEIGT, DASS DIESE ANSTRENGUNGEN DURCH BEGLEITMASSNAHMEN ERGÄNZT WERDEN MÜSSEN. ZU RECHT SEHEN DIE EINGESCHLAGENEN STRATEGIEN DIE WIEDERHERSTELLUNG DER KREDITWÜRDIGKEIT UND DAMIT DER SOLVABILITÄT DER VERSCHULDETEN LÄNDER VOR. UND DIESE STRATEGIEN HABEN SCHON ERSTE, WENNGLEICH UNGENÜGENDE ERGEBNISSE GEZEITIGT. DIE SCHULDNERLÄNDER SOWIE DIE ÖFFENTLICHEN UND PRIVATEN GLÄUBIGER MÜSSEN SOMIT DIE SUCHE NACH INDIVIDUELLEN UND INNOVATIVEN LÖSUNGEN FORTSETZEN.

DIE VIERTE HERAUSFORDERUNG BETRIFFT DIE WEITERE LIBERALISIERUNG DES HANDELS. DENN DIESE LIBERALISIERUNG IST EIN WIRKSAMES INSTRUMENT DER WIRTSCHAFTLICHEN ANPASSUNG, D.H. DER OPTIMALEN ALLOKATION DER RESSOURCEN, UND DAMIT EIN GARANT GEGEN PROTEKTIONISTISCHE PRESSIONEN.

DER STELLENWERT DER ENTWICKLUNGSLÄNDER IN DEN AUSSENWIRTSCHAFTSBEZIEHUNGEN WIRD ZUM GROSSEN TEIL VON IHRER BEFÄHIGUNG ABHÄNGEN, DEN UNWAHRSCHEINLICHEN WACHSTUMSMOTOR ZU NUTZEN, DEN DER INTERNATIONALE HANDEL DARSTELLT. DAS POTENTIAL DER HANDELSAUSWEITUNG HÄNGT SEINERSEITS VON DER STÄRKE DES OFFENEN

MULTILATERALEN HANDELSYSTEMS AB.

DIESE VIERTE HERAUSFORDERUNG WIRD ZUR ZEIT IN DER URUGUAY-RUNDE DES GATT ANGEANGEN. ERSTMALS WERDEN IN SOLCHEN VERHANDLUNGEN AUCH ANDERE PROBLEME ALS JENE DES WARENAUSTAUSCHES AN DIE HAND GENOMMEN. DIESE VERHANDLUNGEN STELLEN POLITISCH UND INSTITUTIONELL DIE ANTWORT AUF DIE GENANNTEN UMWÄLZUNGEN UND NEUEN REALITÄTEN DAR. UNTER DEN ZENTRALEN THEMEN DIESER RUNDE BEFINDET SICH JENES DER VOLLEN INTEGRATION DER ENTWICKLUNGSLÄNDER IN DIE WELTWIRTSCHAFT, WAS VON JEHER EIN ANLIEGEN DER SCHWEIZ GEWESEN IST. SOLCH EINE INTEGRATION LÄSST SICH INDESSEN NUR BEWERKSTELLIGEN, WENN DIE ENTWICKLUNGSLÄNDER SELBST AUCH BEREIT SIND, ALLMÄHLICH ALLEN VERPFLICHTUNGEN DES SYSTEMS NACHZUKOMMEN. WENN DIE URUGUAY-RUNDE DEN INTERESSEN ALLER PARTEIEN, MIT EINSCHLUSS DER ENTWICKLUNGSLÄNDER, ENTGEGENKOMMT, DANN WIRD DEREN ERGEBNIS EIN MASSGEBLICHES WACHSTUMSELEMENT FÜR DIE NEUNZIGER JAHRE DARSTELLEN.

ALLEIN, DIE SCHNELLIGKEIT DER MAKRO-OEKONOMISCHEN UMWÄLZUNGEN DARF EINE FÜNFTE HERAUSFORDERUNG NICHT VERDRÄNGEN, JENE EINER VERSTÄRKTEN TECHNISCHEN ENTWICKLUNGSZUSAMMENARBEIT. DIESE HAT SCHON BEMERKENSWERTE ERGEBNISSE GEZEITIGT, ETWA IM BEREICH DER ERZIEHUNG, AUSBILDUNG, GESUNDHEIT UND NAHRUNGSMITTELERZEUGUNG SOWIE AUF DEM GEBIETE DES UMWELTSCHUTZES.

DIES FESTGESTELLT, RECHTFERTIGT SICH DIE VERSTÄRKUNG DER TECHNISCHEN ZUSAMMENARBEIT NICHT NUR AUS DEN NACH WIE VOR BETRÄCHTLICHEN BEDÜRFNISSEN, SONDERN AUCH ALS BEITRAG ZUM ERFOLG DER

STRUKTURANPASSUNGEN. IN DIESEM ZUSAMMENHANG IST NICHT ZU VERGESSEN, DASS DIE DIVERSIFIZIERUNG DER PRODUKTION IN MANCHEN ENTWICKLUNGSLÄNDERN EINE LANGFRITIGE AUFGABE DARSTELLT, DIE EINER FORTGESETZTEN FINANZIERUNG UND TECHNISCHEM UNTERSTÜTZUNG BEDARF.

SCHLIESSLICH DIE SECHSTE HERAUSFORDERUNG, JENE DER BEWAHRUNG DES ÖKOLOGISCHEN GLEICHGEWICHTS UND DER RATIONELLEN NUTZUNG DER NATÜRLICHEN RESSOURCEN. VERNÜNFTIGES WACHSTUM IST NUR MÖGLICH, WENN ES SICH AUF EINE RATIONELLE NUTZUNG DER BESTEHENDEN RESSOURCEN, SOMIT AUF DAS ÖKOLOGISCHE GLEICHGEWICHT ABSTÜTZT. WIR MÜSSEN DIE ÖKOLOGISCHEN KOSTEN SYSTEMATISCH UND VOLLSTÄNDIG IN UNSERE WIRTSCHAFTLICHEN ENTSCHEIDE EINBEZIEHEN.

DIE SCHWEIZ BEGRÜSST AUSDRÜCKLICH, DASS DIE ZUNEHMENDE UMWELTPROBLEMATIK ALLGEMEIN ZU BEWUSSTSEIN KOMMT. AUCH DIE GENERALVERSAMMLUNG HAT DIESBEZÜGLICH EINE INITIATIVE ERGRIFFEN UND MIT DEN VORBEREITUNGEN EINER INTERNATIONALEN KONFERENZ ÜBER UMWELT UND ENTWICKLUNG BEGONNEN, DIE 1992 STATTFINDEN SOLL. ES HANDELT SICH HIERBEI UM EINE HÖCHST KOMPLEXE HERAUSFORDERUNG, WELCHE VERSCHIEDENSTE BEREICHE BETRIFFT; ICH NENNE ALS BEISPIEL DIE DEMOGRAPHISCHE EXPLOSION MIT ALL IHREN EINFLÜSSEN AUF DIE VERWÜSTUNG DES LANDES, AUF DIE ZERSTÖRUNG DER FAUNA UND DER WÄLDER SOWIE DIE VERSCHMUTZUNG DER OZONSCHICHT. WIR ALLE SIND AUFGERUFEN, UNSERE UMWELTSCHUTZPOLITISCHE VERANTWORTUNG WAHRZUNEHMEN.

DAS AUFGEZEICHNETE BILD DER KÜRZLICHEN UMWÄLZUNGEN, IHRER CHANCEN UND RISIKEN, IST GEWISS NICHT VOLLSTÄNDIG. ES WIDER-

SPIEGELT JEDOCH UNSERE UEBERZEUGUNG, DASS ALLE STAATEN AUFGEFORDERT SIND, SICH MIT ERNEUTEM EFFORT DEN NEUERUNGEN ZU ÖFFNEN.

IN EINER ZEIT, DA DER STAAT ÄUSSERE EINFLÜSE EBENSOWENIG ZU IGNORIEREN VERMAG WIE SEINEN EINFLUSS NACH AUSSEN, MUSS DAS HANDELN DES EINZELNEN NOCH STÄRKER IM INTERNATIONALEN ZUSAMMENWIRKEN SEINE AUSRICHTUNG FINDEN.

DIE ZEITGESCHICHTE ZEIGT, DASS DER STAAT DER GESELLSCHAFT ZU DIENEN UND FOLGLICH SEINE ROLLE IN JENER DEMUT ZU ERFÜLLEN HAT, DIE AUS DEM BEWUSSTSEIN DES POLITISCHEN, WIRTSCHAFTLICHEN, SOZIALEN UND NICHT ZULETZT KULTURELLEN REICHTUMS DES VOLKES ERWÄCHST. DIE GRUNDSÄTZE DER UNIVERSALITÄT UND SOLIDARITÄT, AUF DENEN DIE SCHWEIZ IHRE BEZIEHUNGEN ZUR WELT AUFBAUT, GEWÄHRLEISTEN IHR EINE AKTIVE TEILNAHME AN DEN MEISTEN BEMÜHUNGEN DER INTERNATIONALEN ZUSAMMENARBEIT. INTERDEPENDENZ IST FÜR SIE KEINE GEFÄHRDUNG, SONDERN DAS FUNDAMENT DER BEZIEHUNGEN ZWISCHEN DEN NATIONEN. DIE INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT HAT JEDEM LAND ZU ERMÖGLICHEN, SEINE VERANTWORTLICHKEIT NACH MASSGABE SEINER FÄHIGKEITEN UND MITTEL WAHRZUNEHEMEN. DIESE ZUSAMMENARBEIT IST EIN FERMENT DER SELBSTVERWIRKLICHUNG JEDES MENSCHEN, DEM DIE FREIHEIT LÉTZTLICH WEDER GENOMMEN NOCH GEGEBEN WERDEN KANN, WEIL ER DIESE FREIHEIT AUS SEINEM GRUNDE SELBER IST.

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LE DIRECTEUR  
de  
l'Office fédéral des  
Affaires économiques extérieures

Berne, le 22 mai 1990

Note à M. le Conseiller fédéral J.-P. Delamuraz

Session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies consacrée à la coopération économique internationale (New York, 23 avril - 1er mai 1990)

Je vous prie de trouver ci-joint le rapport de la délégation suisse à la réunion susmentionnée, ainsi que la déclaration que j'ai eu l'honneur de présenter à l'Assemblée générale au nom de la Confédération et qui constituera jusqu'à la CNUCED VIII la "Sprachregelung" suisse en la matière.

Cette session s'est placée à un moment des plus opportuns de l'histoire économique d'après-guerre. Ce n'est en effet que très récemment que les répercussions réelles et potentielles des événements en Europe centrale et de l'Est ont commencé à être ressenties à travers le monde entier et tout particulièrement dans les pays en développement. Il était donc temps que les Nations Unies, fortes notamment de leurs contributions dans le règlement des conflits dans plusieurs régions du globe, prennent acte de ces modifications fondamentales des données de l'échiquier politique et économique, tout en rappelant que l'aide à l'Europe centrale et de l'Est ne doit pas se faire aux dépens des pays en développement.

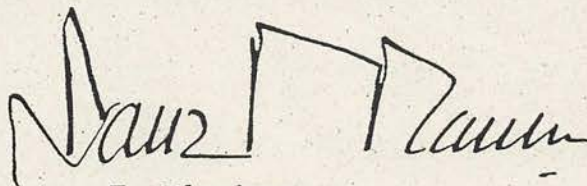
Les résultats de l'exercice sont restés en deçà des espoirs que pouvaient nourrir même des réalistes au vu des déclarations récentes des protagonistes individuels dans les pays en développement. Mais la Déclaration finalement adoptée par consensus va néanmoins au-delà des déclarations antérieures en reprenant bien des sujets que les pays développés considèrent depuis longtemps comme ingrédients essentiels d'une coopération internationale authentique: la nécessité pour une politique économique et de développement cohérente et fondamentalement libérale, la valeur des institutions démocratiques et pluralistes, le respect des droits de l'homme et de l'environnement, la responsabilité de chaque pays pour son développement, y compris pour le désendettement par la croissance. En même temps, le soutien continu des pays développés à ceux qui ne le sont pas fut réaffirmé sans équivoque et à la satisfaction de

- 2 -

ces derniers. Dans ce sens, la Session extraordinaire s'est placée dans l'évolution engendrée par la CNUCED VII.

Pour ma part et sans vouloir cacher ma conviction que la non-appartenance de la Suisse à l'Organisation des Nations Unies est une aberration, j'estime que cette session a encore une fois démontré l'utilité d'une présence au niveau approprié de notre pays à une manifestation dont ne dépendra point l'avenir de l'humanité, mais qui a permis un nouveau pas dans le dialogue économique au sein du seul forum réunissant toutes les voix de notre univers.

Je saisis l'occasion pour exprimer ma gratitude pour l'excellente préparation de ma mission et l'ambiance professionnelle qu'ont su créer l'Ambassadeur Chenaux-Repond et ses collaborateurs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Blankart', with a stylized, somewhat abstract flourish.

F. Blankart



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Membres du Service du développement