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c. Madar

~~Shogakukan Mexico~~

Dear Colleague,

~~Att's check 24/25 October~~

~~Oct 82~~

Subject filed
on Econ M

1/74 n/s Summit

Some three months after the International Meeting on Cooperation and Development, we, your Co-Chairmen at that Meeting, met in Mexico City. It was natural that we would want to use the opportunity to reflect on the discussions at Cancun and assess developments since then.

In retrospect, we remain convinced that the Summit was extremely worthwhile and we have been encouraged by the favourable reaction which you as participants have made known subsequently. Clearly it will take more time before history can judge the results of what may have been achieved at Cancun. But perhaps we can make some tentative assessments.

Our profound hope as Co-Chairmen of that Meeting is that what we there called the "Spirit of Cancun" will not be lost but will be reinforced by each of the twenty-two participants as we face the awesome problems confronting the world. One of the unique aspects of Cancun was the nature of our discussion - the frankness and informality with which we spoke to each other, the lack of rhetoric and recrimination in our remarks, the genuine attempt we made to come to grips with the real problems and the consensus which developed on most critical issues we examined. If each of us went home from Cancun with clearer insights into the urgency and gravity of the world's problems, with a better understanding of each others perspectives and with an appreciation of the need to make compromises for the sake of progress, then the immense effort which went into Cancun was more than justified.

None of us, however, can be content with just fine words or an admirable spirit. The "Spirit of Cancun" has to be translated into the policies we individually pursue as national governments and into the instructions we give our Ministers and officials in the negotiating process at international meetings. Three months after Cancun, your Co-Chairmen are not convinced that this translation is taking place to the extent we had all hoped at Cancun.

While there are many forums and many issues to which the "Spirit of Cancun" should be applied, the most immediate and internationally obvious is that of Global Negotiations. Considerable time was spent on this subject at Cancun and words adopted calling for a sense of urgency in the launching of Global Negotiations.

We followed closely the consultations in the United Nations General Assembly, during November and December, on the question of the launching of Global Negotiations. We were very much encouraged by the fact that all the Cancun countries participated actively and positively in those discussions. Thus, one of the positive elements derived from Cancun was the full resumption of consultations that had been suspended. Another positive element, of great importance, was the fact that in a number of interested countries the question was followed at a very high political level. The degree of personal awareness of the importance of this issue moved many leaders participating in Cancun to remain personally informed on and interested in the evolution of the discussions in New York.

While some progress was made in these consultations, the General Assembly recessed in December without agreement having been reached on the text of a resolution. The differences, however, seem to us to be resolvable if all concerned are prepared to show a spirit of flexibility and compromise. We, therefore, hope that all of you will continue to take a direct personal interest in the consultations which will resume soon in New York.

We need Global Negotiations to deal with complex and inter-related North-South questions and to give urgent attention to particularly pressing problems. Our discussions at Cancun showed that most of these belong to the realms of food security, energy and finance. We need to be prepared to initiate innovative efforts in these fields, within the general context of improving international cooperation for development and reactivating of the world economy.

The time for decision is at hand. Let us build upon Cancun and ensure that the opportunity is grasped now before it is lost.

Yours sincerely,

José Lopez Portillo

Pierre Elliott Trudeau"