US
"THERATIC"
PAPER.

US THEMATIC PAPER

May 12, 1983

BRIEF NO 2

ANNEX A

I. SUMMARY INTRODUCTION

This is a time of real improvement in economic circumstances. Recovery is underway, and this fact increases our mutual confidence that it will soon spread to all countries, industrial and developing. The challenge is to ensure that this recovery endures and reverses a decade of cumulative inflation and unemployment. In this effort, we are mindful of the basic interrelationships that link our economies and the world economic system:

- -- The link between sustainable domestic growth and the open trading system.
- -- The link between convergence of domestic policies towards non-inflationary sustainable growth stability.
- -- The link between open markets and the availability of financing.
- -- The link between international economic cooperation and world progress.

To meet the challenge of an enduring recovery for ourselves and future generations requires steady and purposeful action over both the short- and longer-term, across a range of policies that exploit and reinforce these interrelationships.

- -- Promoting conditions for growth, employment and job creation, structural adjustment, and acceptance of technological development.
- -- Maintaining the fight against inflation with the objective of achieving lower interest rates and more stable exchange rates while identifying consultations on economic policies and market conditions.
- -- Supporting the international financial system and strengthening world economic cooperation and institutions.
- -- Reversing protectionism and beginning to work to achieve further trade liberalization.
- -- Recognizing that prosperity is more than material gain, but also reflects our basic shared values of political freedom, economic opportunity, cultural creativity, and human dignity, and

- 2 -

contributes to the defense of these values which also guide our economic and other relations with Eastern countries.

.

II. ASSESSMENT: REALISTIC OPTIMISM

Improvements are undeniable:

- -- Major successes have been achieved in reducing inflation.
- -- Interest rates have been significantly reduced.
- -- Productivity increases are being registered.
- -- Some successes in controlling budget expenditures are being achieved.
- -- Consensus exists to reduce inflation and unemployment on the basis of sustainable growth promoting policy convergence, further reduction of interest rates and greater stability of exchange rates.
- -- Measures to reduce dependence on oil have helped to bring about a decline in oil prices.
- -- Recovery in our countries spreading to others will help ensure the revival of world trade and easing of debt burden of many developing countries.

However, unemployment, especially among young people, remains intolerably high and continues to increase in some countries. It can be brought down only if an enduring recovery is achieved. Serious problems remain which, if untended, will endanger the prospect of an enduring recovery.

- -- Differences in inflation among countries remain too great.
- -- Inflationary expectations, together with unacceptably high current and future budget deficits and the possibility of excessive and volatile monetary growth, keep interest rates too high, threatening to inhibit investment and recovery and producing distortions and volatility in exchange rates.
- -- Protectionist pressures threaten our open trade and financial system and prospects for recovery in both industrial and developing countries.
- -- Conditions in many developing countries remain much more acute than in our own; in many of them,

unprecedented international debt burdens, exacerbated by high interest rates and low commodity prices, continue to constrain trade and, even in some cases, to threaten financial and related political stability and create human hardship.

III. COMMON APPROACH TO A SUSTAINED RECOVERY

No single country, policy or immediate action can ensure a quick or sustained recovery. Success requires a common approach involving actions taken now across a broad range of policy areas, anchored within a framework of longer-term policy goals and decisions.

Actions Now:

- -- Enhance the intensive consultation process initiated at Versailles to promote convergence of economic conditions in key currency countries and thereby contribute to greater exchange rate stability.
- -- Develop cooperative consultations on policies and exchange market conditions and, while retaining the freedom to operate independently, be willing to intervene in exchange markets in a coordinated manner in instances where we agree such intervention would be helpful.
- -- Encourage governments to reduce excessive budget deficits, especially by reducing expenditures, thereby lowering inflationary expectations and high interest rates.
- -- Pursue appropriate non-inflationary growth of monetary aggregates to achieve and maintain low inflation and interest rates.
- -- Halt and reverse protectionism and make use of favorable conditions provided by recovery progressively to relax and dismantle trade barriers and trade-distorting domestic measures, including those related to trade in high technology products.
- -- Give new impetus to resolve current problems in agricultural trade, conflicts of jurisdiction and the need to achieve a safeguard agreement (by October 1983) as mandated by the GATT Ministerial.
- -- Agree to press forward with the GATT work program on trade in services.
- -- Begin work now to achieve further trade liberalization in the GATT, focusing particularly on trade with and among the developing countries, and on their ability to export and so to service their debt.

- -- Secure early ratification of the increases in IMF and GAB resources and provide interim financing as appropriate.
- -- Reaffirm commitments to provide agreed funding levels for IDA and the other multilateral development banks.
- -- Continue with agreed strategy, and strengthen cooperation, for managing current debt problems, including effective adjustment, adequate private and official financing, and sustained, non-inflationary recovery in industrial countries.
- -- Welcome openness to dialogue expressed by developing countries at New Delhi and Buenos Aires conferences and engage constructively in UNCTAD VI, emphasizing our program for a durable recovery and practical proposals to manage debt problems, facilitate adjustment, promote trade, revive commodity markets, encourage more private investment in, and official assistance for, developing countries and strengthen the dialogue with developing countries in appropriate fora.
- -- Agree to consult among each other and with other countries to address interrelationships among growth, trade, and finance in the world economy and to encourage better coordination among international economic institutions.
- -- Implement agreed conclusions for early action reflected in the results of work programs on East-West economic relations. (Identify significant results of pre-Summit meetings.)

IV. LONGER-TERM POLICY GOALS AND DECISIONS

- -- Sustain fight against inflation and structural budget deficits to encourage a higher level of investment and new job creation.
- Pursue the consultative arrangement agreed at Versailles to promote economic convergence toward low inflation and sustained growth and thereby achieve greater exchange rate stability, continuing with our agreement on exchange market intervention, in the context of an open trading investment and financial system.
- -- Invite Ministers of Finance, in consultation with the Managing Director of the IMF, to define the conditions for improving the international monetary

system and to consider the part which might, in due course, be played in this process by a high-level international monetary conference.

- -- Promote technological development and trade, including their public acceptance, and in particular the implementation of the specific projects included in the program for cooperation initiated at Versailles.
- -- Promote structural adjustment and its public acceptance, in order to enhance competition and the flexibility of markets and to improve the allocation of resources, by all appropriate means including revitalization of training and the encouragement of mobility.
- -- Invite Ministers of Trade, in consultation with the Director General of the GATT, to define the conditions for improving the open multilateral trading system, including trade between developed and developing countries, and to consider the possibility of more frequent Ministerial meetings in the GATT to maintain urgency in this process.
- -- Examine ways to improve the effectiveness of the development process and structural adjustment by assuring non-inflationary flows of public and private finance and investment to the developing countries, with special attention to an adequate flow of resources to the poorer countries, both bilaterally and through IDA, the IBRD and similar institutions.
- -- Continue efforts to conserve energy and develop economic alternative energy resources so as to ensure Western energy security and enhance energy production in developing countries.
- -- Find practical ways to promote increasing food production in developing countries.
- -- Work together to find ways, without discouraging growth and technological development, to protect and preserve natural resources and to reduce the threat of pollution from industrial processes (e.g., acid rain).
- -- Promote cooperation in the development of human resources, including education and training and the improvement of health.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 6 -

Continue work in appropriate existing fora to develop agreed analysis of our economic relations with the East, with attention to our shared security concerns, and on this basis pursue independent policy actions consistent with agreed principles and common analysis reflecting the fact that these relations should be compatible with the basic values and security concerns of Western countries.