

The seventh meeting of the Joint Canada-U.S. Continuing Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs, consisting of designated cabinet members of both countries, last week was one of the most valuable we have ever held. We had a full discussion of the need to expand world trade on a multilateral non-discriminatory basis and an equally full discussion of the United States trade expansion programme. This was particularly timely as our meeting began the day after the "State-of-the-Union" message. Let me read to you from our agreed communiqué on this subject:

"Canadian ministers reiterated their support for the expansion of world trade on a multilateral, non-discriminatory basis, and Canada's readiness to play a constructive role in the promotion of freer world trade. United States members welcomed this statement and pointed out that the United States had consistently supported these objectives for many years. The Committee recognized the importance of the recent decision at the GATT ministerial meeting to explore new arrangements for the multilateral reduction of trade barriers and for moving toward freer trade. The United States members emphasized that the new trade legislation being sought at this Session of Congress is intended to contribute substantially to this objective.

"The United States members explained the general nature and purposes of the trade expansion programme which the United States Administration will be submitting to Congress, which, if approved, would enable the United States to make a greater contribution to the growth of international trade on a multilateral basis, and in this way contribute substantially to the strength and prosperity of the free world."

More Involved than Tariff Changes

We must recognize that, if the new trading world now being conceived is to conform to our collective aspirations, more will have to be achieved than an elimination or lowering of tariffs on manufactured products. The special interests of countries such as our own will have to be taken into account. In particular, access will have to be provided for agricultural exports which are now restricted by a variety of non-tariff devices. Attention will also have to be paid to the needs of the less-developed countries. In working out solutions for these problems we stand ready to play our full part.

These points were also emphasized in the communiqué issued by the Joint Committee last Saturday. Let me read what the communiqué said about agricultural trade: