

and character of the new Commonwealth has emerged. We of the pre-war association have been proud to welcome our Asian and African members and look forward to the accession of new members, not only from Africa, but from the Caribbean area of the Western Hemisphere.

The Commonwealth properly prides itself now on what it has done to facilitate the emergence of new nations into independence and effective self-government. The peaceful emergence of new nations since our federation in 1867 to the present time has been a triumph of British political genius and good sense.

Because the Commonwealth now includes such a diversity of countries, so widely spread across the world and so varied in their economic character, it reflects quickly and typically many of the economic problems of the world.

Within the Commonwealth there exists a diversity of interests, and even conflicts of interest in the economic sphere, but we enjoy a political tradition which has proven itself able to reconcile differences in the past, and which can bring success in the field of trade and economic affairs.

Trade is the very life-blood of the economies of each of the nations here represented.

Monetary Reserves Improvement

On the financial side, a substantial improvement in the monetary reserves of most of the nations of the Free World has taken place during this past year, including the increased central reserves of the sterling area.

The discussions about to take place in New Delhi provide hope that the resources of the International Monetary Fund will be increased. Improvement in the liquid reserves of the Western World should enable nations to meet the inevitable fluctuations of trade without recourse to action being taken that may injure the economy of other nations.

Freeing Trade Restrictions

We in Canada have urged, to achieve a larger measure of freedom in trade, that our Commonwealth partners in the sterling area, in their own interests as well as ours, should remove the discriminations against imports from the dollar area - discriminations that could be justified at an earlier period of post-war difficulties.

We welcome warmly the announcement by Sir David Eccles of decisions which should prove a considerable step forward in the direction of the desirable goal of freeing trade with the United Kingdom from impeding restrictions.