

payments, would it be too much to hope that the way might be paved towards a lowering of some of the barriers that have caused exchanges in some parts of Europe to lag behind the general growth in international trade? We should also hope that whatever new forms of economic co-operation were developed among countries at the conference would be outward-looking in their orientation and of a kind that would also benefit the developing states. In this context, we believe that the principles to be applied should include those underlying the GATT, Bretton Woods and related agreements, namely non-discrimination, uniform standards, common regulations, stability of markets and modification by consultations.

It is particularly important, in our view, that the agenda and commission mandates should facilitate agreement on practical and acceptable measures to reduce progressively the barriers to the movement of people, ideas and information. In this area, we realize the approach must be gradual, but we hope that progress will prove possible. One aspect of special interest to Canadians would be measures to remove obstacles to the movement of members of families who might wish to join or visit their relatives in other countries.

The documents we prepare for the conference should also point the way to the further development of cultural relations, on the basis of a broad definition of culture and a search for more imaginative approaches in the field of cultural exchanges.

Progress towards a conference will in itself be progress towards an increased sense of security in Europe. A conference that produces substantial advances towards *détente* will complement discussions on force reductions in Europe, which are scheduled to begin at the end of January 1973. The negotiations in both areas may be protracted, for they will both be dealing with complex and sensitive subjects. The importance of the issues involved imposes a heavy responsibility on us to conduct these various talks, and those at the conference itself, in a spirit of mutual understanding and in pursuit of the principle of mutual advantage.

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