

still too much fettered by restrictions, high tariffs, trade discrimination and other barriers. The terms of trade have deteriorated for exporters of raw materials and foodstuffs. These basic products, moreover, are subject to sudden and unforeseen price fluctuations which can result in serious setbacks for development plans and for the efforts of producing countries. The developing countries are rightly seeking to diversify their economies, to create soundly based processing and manufacturing industries and to sell the products of these industries in the markets of the world. Their efforts deserve and require the encouragement of advanced countries. All of these countries represented here today stand to gain by increases in the productive capacity and prosperity of the less-developed world. As I see it, the task before this conference should be the establishment of a framework of world trade in which developing countries can achieve a satisfactory rate of economic growth and improved standards of living.

To achieve all these objectives will not be easy and will require adjustments and fresh efforts by all of us. Our task will be eased if we work together and share in the inevitable adjustments. By acting together within the United Nations, we can create in all our countries conditions and the political will necessary for progress. Indeed, the only way to move forward effectively is by joint action.

Mr. President, the issues before this conference have been ably analysed in the report presented by the Secretary-General, Dr. Raul Prebisch. His report presents us with many challenging proposals. I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the distinguished services which he has already rendered to this conference.

My Government - and I am sure each of the governments represented here - has given most serious thought to the issues facing this conference. Each of us will be making a contribution to the consideration of these problems in the days ahead. It may be helpful if I were to outline at this preliminary stage in a more specific way the Canadian approach on how these objectives can best be attained.

Canada's Approach

First, Canada will work with other developed countries in eliminating, wherever practicable, tariffs and other restrictions which obstruct trade in tropical foodstuffs and industrial raw materials traditionally exported by developing countries. The new round of tariff negotiations coming up in the GATT, known as the "Kennedy round", will complement this conference. These negotiations should reduce or eliminate barriers to many important exports from developing countries. To free world trade in food and raw materials would be a major accomplishment, from which all countries in the world will benefit. At present, Canada has no quantitative restrictions on imports of products of interest to developing countries, and our tariffs on tropical products and raw materials are generally low or have been removed altogether; we have no internal taxes inhibiting the consumption of these products.