

give world leadership in a concerted effort to meet the difficult and diverse trade problems of Commonwealth countries.

I propose, therefore, that this Conference should declare its intention to extend an invitation to all member nations of the Commonwealth, of the EEC, the EFTA, the U.S.A. and Japan and other like-minded nations indicating a desire to participate, to meet at the earliest practicable date to give consideration to how to deal with the trading problems before us in a way which will be to the mutual advantage to all. This should prepare the way for the prospective non-discriminatory tariff negotiations on a most-favoured-nation basis.

The European Community is already a reality. There has been no question here about the desirability of that Community, as it now exists, carrying forward its objectives. However, it does seem that, if we are to achieve still wider and more satisfactory trading arrangements before 1970, steps in the direction of further world-wide trading arrangements should now be taken.

I believe that this would offer a practical contribution to the solution of our difficulties which will advance the strength of Commonwealth association, will permit the Common Market to proceed with the expansion of its own activities, and will bring to bear the immense trading capacity of the U.S.A. and Japan.

If this plan is accepted, Canada would be most willing and honoured to be host country.

Not Tariff Problem Only

Reciprocal reduction of tariffs should not be the only matter for consideration by such a meeting. Our discussions here have again shown the urgent need to find solutions to the special difficulties in world trade in agricultural products. Work in the tariff field would need to be co-ordinated with what might be done through other means; for example through world-wide commodity agreements, both in the field of temperate foodstuffs and where particular problems arise with respect to basic materials. Other matters requiring attention would be trade in tropical products and trade of the developing countries generally.

It will be most essential for the Commonwealth to take a lead in bringing about the solution of the many problems which arise. It will be necessary to ensure that the diverse trade interests of all Commonwealth countries, large and small, are fully taken into account in coming to this end. Working together in this wider framework should provide an important new focus for Commonwealth co-operation.