

We must face the fact that import restrictions, and other barriers to trade, are, unfortunately, still prevalent. A good deal has been done through the Contracting Parties, however, to limit the scope and the effects of such restrictions, in ways which would not otherwise have been possible. Most important of all, an international forum has been created, in which trading nations can meet to discuss their problems and to resolve difficulties. If there were no General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, I am sure the governments of the countries represented here would be impelled to create one.

The past record provides evidence, therefore, that it is essential to continue the GATT into the future and to strengthen it. We must consolidate our gains and arm ourselves, jointly, to cope with the problems which are certain to arise. We must ensure that our agreement is well designed for this purpose. None of us will be able, of course, to achieve all of the objectives we have in mind, because our short-term interests are not in all cases identical. Personally, I believe we shall achieve a healthier pattern of international trade, because of the checks and balances which we impose upon one another, than would be the case if each of our governments were free to go its own way. Each country must adapt its commercial policies, to some considerable extent, to the needs of its trading partners.

I suppose that all of the governments represented here are tempted, from time to time, to pursue two goals which are self-contradictory: unrestricted access to the markets of others, combined with freedom to keep out imports. We all know that such a policy would not be in the economic interests of any government, even if it could be carried out; but the temptation is there. The Canadian Government is concerned at all times with formulating a trade policy which is in our own national interests, and which is responsive at the same time to the legitimate needs of our friends elsewhere. It is my experience that these dual considerations are seldom in basic conflict with one another, and never for very long periods of time.

Each of our governments, therefore, must seek to understand the problems, the policies and the aspirations of the others. We are in search of joint solutions, formulated in common. At this Review Session, we must decide what are the next steps to be taken in the development of the General Agreement. None of us expect any complex formulation to be produced, and accepted, which is capable of solving all of our problems at one stroke. We can try, however, and we must try, to ensure that we do the important things first.

Many of us are already in agreement that the greatest single task of this Session is to provide for new rules of trade, which will limit the use of quantitative import restrictions, and which will eliminate discriminatory trade restrictions. There is a close connection between the elimination of discriminatory restrictions and the