

and Yugoslavia, and the Contracting Parties have before them a declaration providing for the establishment of closer and more effective relations with Poland. The family of GATT countries is growing and this is as it should be. It is recognition also of the mounting appreciation throughout the world of the value of multilateralism in world trade.

The GATT is the only instrument of international co-operation in the trade field which brings together trading countries on a world-wide basis. It is vital that full use be made of it not only in dealing with the familiar and continuing problems of the past but also with the challenges of the future as we move from the period of postwar recovery and consolidation into the new era of the Sixties.

We may look to the years ahead with a good deal of hope and optimism. New problems there will no doubt be, and some of them will require a high degree of understanding and co-operation if they are to be resolved to the common good of the world trading community. But if we compare the trading world as it is today with the dislocation and difficulties which faced our countries at the time of GATT'S inception, we must be impressed with the very great progress which has been made and take heart for the future.

Times Propitious

I doubt whether since, before the First World War, the international environment has at any time been more propitious for attainment of the broad objectives embodied in the General Agreement. The industrial countries have recovered from the recession of 1957-58. The reserve and payments position of the majority of countries has greatly improved. There has also been a strengthening demand for the exports of primary producers, an enlargement of the resources of the International Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and a growing understanding of the needs and potentialities of the less-developed countries. These are all evidence of the health and vigour of our world trading community. World trade is at record levels. The recent recession in North America has again demonstrated that periodic declines in economic activity on that continent need not have magnified repercussions in the rest of the world. Indeed, the maintenance of North American imports at a high level was a marked feature of the 1957-58 contraction.

Given sound domestic policies, we should be able to look forward to progressive growth of world trade in the years to come, unfettered by the restrictions which have plagued international commerce in the postwar years. The time has come to close the book on the postwar transitional period and the special international provisions which were made to accommodate the difficulties of that era.

Canada gives its full support to the programme for the further expansion of international trade which was decided upon at the last Ministerial Meeting. Committee One has made good progress in developing the necessary arrangements for the next round of tariff negotiations in 1960-61. These negotiations will provide a further opportunity to secure mutual advantageous lowering of tariff barriers and we recognize the value of the initiative taken by the U.S.A.