

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OTTAWA - CANADA

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CANADA AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD TRADE

Address by the Honourable Robert H. Winters, Minister of Trade and Commerce, to the Export Advisory Council, Ottawa, Ontario, February 23, 1968.

... As you may know, I returned to Ottawa just last week from a visit to Britain, Holland, Italy, Iran and India, where I headed the Canadian delegation to the very important United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

One of the great satisfactions of my tenure here has been the formation and development of this Advisory Council and the results it has achieved in helping to generate a national export consciousness.

Any government organization faces the danger of growing remote from and unresponsive to the needs of the public it serves. This body was formed to ensure that this Department does not do that. The Council is doing its job admirably well. You have provided us with wise counsel and sound recommendations. Later in the morning we shall discuss some of these recommendations and the response the Department has made to them. I hope we can satisfy you that we have treated your suggestions very seriously indeed, and I hope in turn that you are deriving satisfaction from your membership on the Council and the work it is doing.

International Trade Developments

During the Council's first year, there have been many exciting developments in world trade. You will recall our third meeting last July, which came hard on the heels of the signing of the Kennedy Round agreements. Implementation of these agreements is now beginning to take place. The first step in tariff cuts came into effect in Canada and the United States on January 1.

The World Grains Agreement is scheduled to be ratified and put into operation on July 1. In the meantime, we are in close touch with other major wheat exporters to ensure that world prices start moving up. New Canadian anti-dumping legislation in line with the anti-dumping code adopted at Geneva will, I hope, be introduced in Parliament this spring for implementation July 1.