

the concerns to which the proposed Association gives rise, particularly, but not exclusively, for the under-developed countries. It is not enough to think only in terms of mitigating damage when it occurs. Statesmanship requires consideration of measures to avoid unnecessary damage before it arises.

The Treaty of Rome is a fact of life and its provisions hold great hope for the future. To the extent that it poses problems for outside countries in the trade field, solutions must be found which will prejudice neither the legitimate objectives of the Six nor the Multilateral objectives of the Contracting Parties as a whole. I am confident that, given goodwill on both sides, common and fertile ground can be found. We have already heard a preliminary report on the proposed Convention for a Free Trade Association between the United Kingdom, the Scandinavian countries, Switzerland, Austria and Portugal, and we may be given further information later in the meeting. This new grouping, like the European Common Market, must, at the appropriate time, be examined by the Contracting Parties. The sooner the Contracting Parties can be informed of what is planned, the sooner it will be possible to form judgments and make any necessary recommendations. As in the case of the Rome Treaty, Canada is prepared to examine these proposals judiciously and sympathetically. We shall have to satisfy ourselves that what is proposed will conform with the objectives and principles of the GATT and in particular with the requirements of the relevant Articles of the Agreement.

... I have listened carefully to the statements made by Ministers and Heads of Delegations who have so far spoken. When I return to Ottawa, I shall be reporting to the Canadian Government on the many important points which have emerged. More than ever I am convinced of the need for maximum cooperation in the field of international trade and of the importance to this end of maintaining and strengthening the GATT. It is at Ministerial Sessions such as these that we are able to take stock and to chart the way ahead. Trade relations and political relations go hand in hand. We must ensure that trade continues to provide a beneficial link between our many countries. We must take care that through lack of foresight or understanding it is not permitted to become a divisive force between nations.

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