

The role of the United Nations in providing an effective framework for economic and social development is well established. There will, I am sure, be no disagreement over the importance of the various assistance programmes. These essential activities must be adequately supported. In the "Decade of Development", we should strive to make increasingly effective use of existing institutions. For its part, the Canadian Government will continue to support these United Nations efforts and at the same time to maintain our bilateral aid programmes.

The promotion of sound trading conditions is at least as important as the provision of aid. In fact, the recent Commonwealth Conference considered that question, and they had this to say: "...Improved opportunities and conditions for trade are even more important than financial aid". That was the unanimous opinion of all the countries represented.

Canada has sought, in the United Nations and outside, to promote international arrangements and institutions (for example, the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade) which would encourage the expansion of trade on a multilateral and non-discriminatory basis. This will be our attitude in examining the Economic and Social Council's recommendation for a Conference on Trade and Development in 1964.

Such a conference will provide one opportunity for a discussion on strengthening the world trading system. While some problems can be dealt with only in a world-wide forum, other aspects of trade can be examined usefully by countries whose trading systems - and hence trading problems - are most alike. For example, at the recent Commonwealth meeting Canada proposed an early conference of a group of countries to discuss their common trading problems. Such a conference would, in fact, help to prepare the way for wider, non-discriminatory tariff negotiations on a most-favoured-nation basis.

Commonwealth and New Nations

I should like to say a few words now about the Commonwealth and emerging nations. In London we welcomed four countries that had joined this family of free and independent nations within the last year - Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. This brought the number of nations participating fully in the Commonwealth Conference to a total of 15. All but four - those four are the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada - have become independent since the Second World War and in each case they have chosen, of their own free will, to become members of the Commonwealth. In addition, there were representatives present from other territories such as Uganda, Kenya and British Guiana, which will shortly obtain independence and will in all probability choose to join the Commonwealth and, of course, the United Nations. I believe Uganda will be gaining independence in a matter of weeks.