

Report on Canada-Japan Committee

this being no time for a debate on this subject, to a full discussion of this very vital matter.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, all I want to say is that we are developing the habit of dealing with very important matters on motions, when the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs makes a statement and each of the leaders makes some impromptu remarks. This all points up the need of an opportunity for a very full discussion of this question in the House of Commons.

As far as our group is concerned, I want to say that we view with increasing apprehension the suggestion of a multinational nuclear power being built up in NATO, and we will certainly welcome an opportunity for an early discussion of this matter on the floor of the house.

STATEMENT ON MEETING OF CANADIAN-JAPANESE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a brief report to the house on the first meeting of the Canada-Japan ministerial committee which was held in Tokyo on January 11 and 12.

Hon. members will recall that the Canada-Japan ministerial committee was established during the visit of Prime Minister Ikeda to Ottawa in June, 1961. Its terms of reference as set out in the joint communique issued by the two prime ministers are as follows:

The two prime ministers agree that in view of the increasing importance of Canadian-Japanese relations, there should be established a Canadian-Japanese ministerial committee which would not be a negotiating body but would provide a valuable means of contact between ministers of the two countries. The activities of the committee would consist primarily of visits of ministers to each other's country from time to time to exchange views on matters of common interest, particularly in the economic field, and to familiarize themselves with the problems of the other country.

At this first meeting of the committee my colleague the Minister of Fisheries and I had the honour to represent Canada, together with the under secretary of state for external affairs, the deputy minister of trade and commerce, the deputy minister of national revenue (customs and excise), the Canadian ambassador to Japan, and other officials. The Japanese representatives were the minister for foreign affairs, the minister of finance, the minister for agriculture and forestry, the minister for international trade and industry, the minister of state and director-general of the economic planning agency, and the Japanese ambassador to Canada.

[Mr. Thompson.]

All those who participated regarded this meeting as an outstanding success. It demonstrated clearly the valuable contribution this committee can make toward closer relations between Canada and Japan, which are already very friendly, and toward developing a fuller understanding in each country of the problems and aspirations of the other.

As I shall be tabling copies of the communique I need not recount the outcome of this meeting in full detail. I should like, however, to mention some of the most important items.

The meeting began with a general review of economic conditions and prospects in both countries. This was followed by a comprehensive discussion of trade relations between Canada and Japan. This discussion was forthright and candid, yet completely friendly throughout. We reviewed the remarkable growth of trade in both directions since the conclusion of our trade agreement in 1954, and there was general agreement that there were excellent prospects for the continued expansion of mutually beneficial trade.

On the Canadian side we explained the difficulties that arose for certain Canadian industries when Japanese exports of highly competitive products were concentrated too heavily in particular lines, and we urged Japan to diversify its exports as much as possible. In this connection the Japanese representatives reiterated that Japan would adhere to the principle of orderly marketing of Japanese exports to Canada of products competitive with our own production. I should make it clear that we did not discuss the question of the levels of export restraint Japan will apply in relation to Canada in 1963. This committee is not a negotiating body, and the consultations in regard to Japan's export restraints are proceeding through the normal channels.

The committee had a particularly valuable discussion of recent developments in international economic relations. I quote from the communique:

The committee took special note of the joint initiative taken by the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States in calling for a meeting of ministers to set in train a broad program for the liberalization and expansion of trade. The committee welcomed the fact that this meeting would take place under the auspices of GATT in the early part of 1963. The committee stressed the importance of achieving the broadest participation in the tariff negotiations which would follow the meeting of ministers and emphasized that such negotiations must be based upon the unconditional most favoured nation principle. The committee recognized the need to make progress in all sectors of trade.

We also discussed the forthcoming United Nations conference on trade and development. We agreed that Canada and Japan