

the Speaker and the house, honourable senators could again speak on the subject after they have received much more information than it is possible for me to impart. Unless some honourable senator objects, I do not see any particular reason why His Honour could not permit us to go fairly far afield, without prejudice to our right to speak again later. I do not know the viewpoint of the leader opposite.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: As far as I am concerned, I join with the Leader of the Government and the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar) in asking His Honour to waive any rule which would prevent the widest discussion of this matter. If the honourable member for Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert) wishes to do so, I would let him speak now, and again later on.

Hon. Mr. LAMBERT: I am very grateful to the house for its generous disposition in relation to the few remarks I want to make. I would preface them by the complete and positive statement that I am today as much in favour of adopting the proposed agreement contained in this international charter as I shall be when we have finished this discussion.

On the general aspect and significance of the whole agreement, I wish to point out, honourable senators, that when in 1945 we dealt with the United Nations charter, which came to us from San Francisco, we were looking forward to a world safeguarded for peace and security. In approaching the Geneva charter, our ideal is precisely the same. This Geneva charter is the work of the specialized agency called the International Trade Organization, one of the developments of the United Nations organization, and it should be followed by the adoption of the principles underlying it.

I think that the significance of these agreements should be considered from the point of view I have mentioned. The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations was charged, under the articles numbered LV to LXIV, with the very work that has been undertaken by this international trade organization at Geneva, and its basis is the idealism which led to the bringing together of the various nations of the world at San Francisco in 1945.

The proposal to draw up a charter for international trade originated in the fourth and fifth principles of the Atlantic Charter, which was drawn up by the late President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill in August, 1941; and I want to put on *Hansard* those two principles,

in order to give the real background of the project which we are about to consider. They are as follows:

Fourth, they will endeavour, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further the enjoyment by all states, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity;

Fifth, they desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all nations in the economic field with the object of securing, for all, improved labour standards, economic adjustment, and social security.

The principles enunciated in those two articles were incorporated in article VII of the Anglo-United States loan agreement, and the same idea appeared in the special clause which is included in every lease-lend agreement entered into by this country, the United States and Great Britain during the war. Therefore, the whole outlook of the allied countries, led by the United States and Great Britain and with the full co-operation of countries like Canada, was to the time ahead when economic recovery and social security could be adopted in such a charter as this.

It should also be stated that shortly after the United Nations Charter was evolved at San Francisco on December 21, 1945, the State Department of the United States published the proposed details of the charter that is now before us. Eighteen nations were invited to join the United States in negotiating a multilateral trade agreement, and it was found expedient at that time to have the United Nations Economic and Social Council take charge of the proceedings. A preparatory committee was instructed to prepare a charter for an international trade organization; and this charter was ultimately to be presented to the World Conference on Trade and Employment, which began its work in London, England, in 1946, carried on until October of this year in Geneva, and then adjourned to the date of the meeting that is now being held in Havana, Cuba.

This charter is the result of a most intensive study by hundreds of government specialists from the seventeen different countries represented in this agreement, and is for the purpose of bringing about a compromise document. While the charter is obviously a compromise document, it nevertheless is the deliberate judgment of every government represented at the Geneva Conference as to what each of them would be likely to expect in providing for a world trade basis for international economic co-operation, and I feel that what is now before us in the form of a proposed basis for enlarging world trade is a far more historic document than the majority of us realize.