

fact that it was now the cornerstone of the whole structure. There would be no charter and there would probably be no international trade organization, and the sole instrument that was binding these tariff schedules together was the so-called General Agreement.

There was only one defection at Torquay from the list of countries which had negotiated at Geneva. That was Lebanon. I need only say the word to show you that there was no substantial change of mind among the participating countries. Lebanon was the only country which signified that it was not carrying on any longer as a member under the General Agreement.

We were able at Torquay to extend for another period of three years our agreement with every country with which we had successfully negotiated at Geneva. I think sometimes that is overlooked by the public, although it was in essence the primary purpose for which we went to Torquay—to prevent the lapsing of the agreements which had been achieved at Geneva. It is easy to say in a sentence that we were to secure such extension, but, as a matter of fact, it is the greatest achievement of Torquay, that 34 countries were willing to carry on for another firm period of three years what had been agreed at Geneva.

Our second purpose was if possible to enlarge the agreement we had made at Geneva with some ten or twelve of the most important trading nations of the world. We were successful, in that we enlarged our existing agreements with ten of the contracting parties. The most important of these, commercially, were of course, the United States, France, Italy, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark.

In addition we were successful in our third objective, namely, that of attempting to make pacts or agreements with the countries which desired to associate themselves with the General Agreement. In each case we were successful and the six acceding countries will become members when they are voted upon in due course, provided they receive the vote of two-thirds of the existing members. They will then be full-fledged contracting parties. Anticipating their full status, we have negotiated successfully with the six countries which wish to join, they being Austria, Germany, Korea, Peru, The Philippines, and Turkey.

The final objective was that of negotiating or renegotiating items, under article 28 of the Agreement and in this we were successful. Since certain countries wanted to withdraw concessions given to Canada at Geneva, we met with their negotiations and discussed the proposed withdrawals. In each instance, we re-negotiated and accepted compensation for any items that were withdrawn. Dr. Isbister can furnish more detail later. I may merely repeat that, in addition to extending the Geneva agreements for three years, and in addition to enlarging existing tariff arrangements with 10 countries, and in addition to making successful agreements with six new acceding countries, we emerged practically unscathed from the re-negotiation of items under article 28.

Mr. MACDONNELL: Who negotiated for Korea?

The WITNESS: The head of the delegation was the Korean ambassador in London; different officials of the embassy were present during the actual negotiations.

The net result of Torquay is that what had been done at Geneva is extended, firm, for another three years; quite a number of new countries have been added to the membership of the club; enlarged schedules have resulted, covering a very considerable sector of commodities not covered at Geneva; and lastly, but not least important, the tariff treatment of thousands of commodities is stabilized for a further period of three years. I submit that when 34 countries have signed (or are in the process of signing) an obligation to carry on an agreed commercial policy for a further period of three years, thus giving a degree of stabilization to international commercial policy and tariff treatment, that that is of considerable significance at the present time.