

a new basis for the trading patterns of developing countries. The work which has been done so far in the Preparatory Committee and in GATT has identified many barriers to world trade and brought forward a range of suggestions for dealing with these problems. It is clear that many of the difficulties we confront are complex and deep-rooted.

No country more than my own has a greater interest in the success of our forthcoming conferences on tariffs and trade problems in the United Nations and GATT. As one of the world's great trading nations, Canada has played an active role throughout the years in lowering barriers to world trade, and in securing better and more stable terms of access for the world's exports. We in Canada can also understand from our own experience the special trade problems connected with the development of efficient and soundly-based manufacturing industries. These considerations will influence our thinking and determine our approach at the forthcoming conferences.

Whatever progress is made toward improving world trading arrangements, it is most important that we should work within the framework of the multilateral system. This trade system, and the principles, the agreements and the institutions around which it has been built, is one of the outstanding international achievements of our generation. All countries have gained by it, and we all stand to lose if it is weakened. We should seek at the coming tariff and trade conferences to make the multilateral trading system function more effectively, and we should guard against weakening the principles on which it is based.

Let me now turn to questions of economic assistance. It is obvious that while continued aid by the developed countries is essential, this aid can provide only a small part of the total resources required. The bulk of this aid has been, and will doubtless continue to be, provided bilaterally. A significant and increasing amount is, however, being provided through the multilateral programmes of the United Nations and its agencies, which have a clear and important role to play. For our part we consider that the institutional framework of the United Nations and its agencies is now generally adequate, and capable of making effective use