

If the free world is to be strong and prosperous and therefore able to deal effectively with threats to its freedom, the economies of the free nations must be as strong and prosperous as they can be made. Free men will stand strong in defence of freedom, even in the face of great hardship; but it is too much to expect them to remain steadfast indefinitely if the future holds little for them and their families but austerity and the fear of depression. Unless the national economies of the free world can be made and kept healthy and productive, Communism could win a bloodless victory without any war, hot or cold. And most of us think that to keep the free nations economically sound there must be a high and expanding level of international trade.

We all know how great was the disruption of the economies of Europe after the last war. We know how shattered Germany and Japan were after their defeats. If all these nations and the nations of the Middle and Far East not now subject to Communist domination are to achieve political stability, it seems imperative for them to have stable markets in which they can sell a reasonable proportion of the goods they produce so they can buy the essentials they need. And for most countries of the world the United States appears to be the greatest potential market and source of supply.

What many of these countries would wish to sell you does not amount to very much in proportion to your total national wealth, but it is often vital to them.

The United States would seem to have little to fear from wholesome competition with the other nations of the free world. Is your economy not too strong and are your industries not too productive to be in any serious danger from imports? American business has always proclaimed its faith in the wholesome effects of honest competition. Is it not then the part of wisdom to widen the area of competitive trade and see if more nations cannot make their own way into prosperity and strength?

Many of us feel that the United States has a very direct interest in seeing the countries of the free world earn more dollars. Since the last war billions of American dollars have been raised every year by taxes on United States citizens to be spent on mutual aid or defence support in other countries - to help in keeping the economies and defences of the free world strong. Canada does not receive such assistance; in fact we also contribute to it.

"Trade not aid" sounds like a good slogan and every North American should consider what it implies.

Every new dollar the free countries can earn through added trade with the United States or Canada will help diminish the burden of special assistance on the American and Canadian taxpayer. Would that not be better for the morale and relations of the free world?