

The third theme was trade, and for Canada, of course, this was the most important. There was general agreement that, at least pending reconstitution of the OEEC, some forum should be set up in which it would prove possible to discuss the problems of The Six and The Seven in their European and world-wide contexts. In the face of strong differences as to the precise terms of reference of the new trade committee and the number of countries to serve on it, the Canadian Delegation put forward proposals which formed the basis of the resolution eventually adopted as the unanimous decision of the conference. A committee of 20, of which Canada is, of course, a member, with power to establish subcommittees was agreed on. The terms of reference, while according priority to the relationship between The Six and The Seven, are not confined solely to European aspects of trade relations. It was also decided that the committee should include the Executive Secretary of GATT. He will, I am sure, play a constructive role and his presence on the committee should, at least in a measure, allay the apprehensions of the many countries outside Europe who have been worried that the Europeans, preoccupied by their own difficulties, might disregard the interests and the rights of outsiders.

In regard to all three resolutions, but particularly in regard to that on trade, the Canadian Delegation was successful in its attempt to promote acceptable solutions for general problems while protecting Canadian interests.

In the short time available, last week's meetings did not attempt to grapple with substantive issues of trade. What was required was agreed machinery which could come to grips with these issues. This will now be done in the trade committee and its subcommittees. It is now for countries involved to put this machinery to the best possible use in solving their problems without sacrificing the interests of others. It is the sincere hope of the Government of Canada that all the countries concerned will effectively employ this opportunity.

In this regard we must recognize that the outcome of current economic issues in Europe will have significant effects throughout the world. Trade policies are not made in isolation, but through interaction. The commercial policies to be followed in Europe cannot fail to influence United States policies, and both are of critical importance to Canada.

The meetings of the past week may well prove to be memorable. At these meetings the United States displayed, once again, leadership of a very constructive nature; and this leadership involved the relationships between the United States, Europe, and the rest of the world. Since the war the United States, abandoning its historic isolationism, has been willing to recognize its own interest in the reconstruction of a devastated continent and in the defence of that continent against the danger of expansion and aggression from the east.