



CANADA

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CANADA'S COMMONWEALTH CONTRIBUTION

Canada's desire to contribute to the strength and spirit of the Commonwealth was emphasized by Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, in a speech to the Commonwealth and Empire Industries Association at the Royal Albert Hall in London, on November 4.

The Prime Minister said that Canadians understand the necessity of the developed countries speeding up economic growth and improving the living standards of their people. Canadians, he said, feel a responsibility to assist their fellowmen in the attainment of these goals and they are prepared to discharge in full measure this important responsibility.

Expanding his theme, Mr. Diefenbaker said:

"Canada is among the six largest industrialized nations of the world. We are also the fourth largest trading nation, but our arrival as a highly industrialized country and a major trading nation is of fairly recent origin. We do not forget the days when our country depended heavily on agriculture and other primary industries for its livelihood.

"In the process of diversification and industrialization we have had the help of many countries. Men from many nations came to Canada and brought with them skills, know-how, enterprise and capital. We can show our appreciation for the help we, ourselves, received in the early days of nation-building by now providing similar help to other countries.

"Canada's economy has expanded rapidly in the post-war period, more rapidly than that of the United Kingdom and the United States. If past rates of economic growth are any indication, Canada may overtake the United Kingdom in terms of national income and national output within the next quarter of a century or so.

"Canada recognizes its responsibility and its place in both Commonwealth aid and Commonwealth trade. Insofar as aid to less-developed nations is concerned, the question which occupies us most urgently is not whether we should help them, but in what form our assistance will be most constructive and welcome. We know that it is an essential condition of true economic aid that markets be opened and opportunities found to sell and to assure reasonable return for the labour and investment of the people of the developing land. Trade and aid are two sides of the same coin.

"In this regard we warmly welcomed the announcement at the Commonwealth Conference to which I referred earlier of the relaxation of import restrictions by the United Kingdom. Australia also has recently relaxed its dollar restrictions, the better to encourage a true Commonwealth trading partnership.

"Canada in turn has opened her markets for the goods of other countries. The fact is that last year we bought \$5.6 billion worth of goods from 128 countries all over the globe. This was about \$700 million more than we sold to other nations. So it is that Canadians