



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

60/30

TRADE ACCESS TO THE EEC

Statement by Mr. H.B. McKinnon, Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the 1960-61 GATT Tariff Conference, at the Opening Session on September 1, 1960.

...The series of conferences opening today, including the coming seventeenth session of the contracting parties, will be a good deal different from any of those which have preceded it. The latter- and particularly the 1947 negotiations in Geneva and those of 1950 in Torquay- were significant achievements in international trade co-operation; the world moved from bilateralism to multilateralism.

But this is another day; new and different problems in the sphere of economic and commercial policy have arisen. Some of them present quite novel aspects of considerable complexity and difficulty. We are here to deal with a number of these in the months to come. Many of the most difficult matters we shall have to discuss arise from decisions to work together on a regional basis and to intensify economic co-operation within particular groups of countries.

With the marked improvement in financial position of many of the important trading countries over the past decade; with the welcome, though not yet complete, abolition of discrimination and quantitative restrictions, tariffs are again playing a more significant role in regulating trade. It is right to emphasize, as speakers before me have done, the importance of the new round of tariff negotiations that is to begin next January. However, the work with which we shall be concerned before the New Year, particularly the renegotiation of tariff bindings of the members of the European Economic Community, is of critical importance.

Access to The Six

Canada has on many occasions expressed its sympathy with and understanding of the economic and political objectives of the European Economic Community. A liberally-oriented EEC