

negotiations in Geneva as the world proceeds with the task of reducing trade barriers generally.

I have not touched so far on Latin America and our community of interest with this area in the Pacific. The growth in our trade with Latin America has been somewhat less dramatic than elsewhere but still impressive. The increase in the last decade has been from \$188 million in 1954 to \$330 million in 1964. Last autumn I had hoped to lead a goodwill trade and economic mission to Latin America, designed to stimulate greater trading interest in both directions. Events forced me to postpone that trip. I am determined, if political fortunes are with me, to make such a visit in the near future.

I should like to emphasize that Canada's absence from the OAS table should in no way be construed as any lack of interest in Latin American affairs or any lack of willingness to play our role in the Western hemisphere. We are a member of a number of United Nations subsidiary bodies dealing specifically with Latin America, including the Economic Commission for Latin America. In the last year we have worked out arrangements with the Inter-American Development Bank under which we have set aside substantial funds to finance economic development in Latin America. We work closely with Latin American countries on international commodity problems and we are deeply conscious of their interests as we seek to grapple on the international plane with the serious trade and economic problems of developing countries throughout the world. In our relations with Latin America we consider how best we can make our contributions to Western hemisphere affairs within the framework of the totality of our world relations.

The development of North America's trade frontiers on the Pacific rim must, in the final analysis, be up to you, the businessmen of Canada and the United States. It is up to governments, however, to improve the trading framework within which you can develop those trading opportunities. The current negotiations in Geneva, the so-called "Kennedy round", are looking to a major step forward in reducing trade barriers imposed by governments. Canada, the United States and Japan are key participants in this negotiation, along with the EEC countries, Britain and the other EFTA countries. Industrial offers were exchanged last November and detailed bargaining has been engaged. Later this week countries are scheduled to table their offers on agricultural products and there is expectation that Australia and New Zealand, who have major agricultural export interests, will, at that time, be joined in the detailed bargaining. It would be premature to make any forecast as to the result of these negotiations. The task the participating countries have set for themselves is hard and complex. Much will depend on the role of the EEC and the participation of the Community has been complicated by concurrent difficulties within the Common Market, particularly in relation to their agricultural policy. The goal that has been set -- a major freeing up of world trade -- is worth the effort. The bargaining will clearly be long and difficult. While the eventual result may not represent as great an advance as had been hoped by the original architects, I trust that significant progress will be made.

An issue of key importance before us in these negotiations, and in other international meetings, is the challenge that faces the developed world in meeting the needs of the less fortunate countries. On the Pacific rim