

The Conference also agreed to full use of trade missions, trade fairs, and other promotional activities for the expansion of intra-Commonwealth trade.

In commodity problems and agriculture, the Conference recognized the serious problems caused by wide fluctuations in commodity prices and agreed to participate in a commodity-by-commodity examination of the situation. In this connection there was agreement on the need for measures to mitigate the adverse effects of protection afforded to basic agricultural commodities and minerals, and significantly, I think that while care has to be taken in the disposal of surpluses on world markets at non-commercial terms, it was recognized that such non-commercial disposal can help to improve the living standards of the less-developed countries.

These are some of the specific accomplishments of the Trade and Economic Conference. But none of these things, I think, express the full significance of it. It was in truth an example of the Commonwealth in action. Here friendships were made, understanding increased, ideals were reaffirmed. At the Conference of 1958 practical economic ways were devised in which this association of governments can bring benefit to the people which they serve.

Canada's Contribution

You have the right to ask me, as Prime Minister of Canada, what role do I see for Canada in the future of this new and living Commonwealth.

First of all, let me assure you in simple language of a desire to contribute to the strength and spirit of the Commonwealth and the common welfare of its people. Canadians understand the necessity of the developed countries speeding up economic growth and improving the living standards of their people. Canadians feel a responsibility to assist their fellow-men in the attainment of these goals and we are prepared to discharge in full measure this important responsibility.

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.