

The holding of this Conference on trade and development, which was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1962, reflects the growing recognition of the contribution which expanded international trade can make to economic and social progress throughout the world, and of the importance of international co-operative action to meet the special trade problems of the less developed countries. Economic aid from the advanced countries including Canada has played and will continue to play an essential role in helping the less developed countries. These countries are now seeking to increase their export earnings as a means of accelerating their economic development and raising their living standards.

Over the past year a thirty-two country Preparatory Committee, of which Canada was a member, has identified the problems to be placed before the Conference and suggested lines of action along which solutions might be found. The Conference will examine ways in which less developed countries can increase their share in the expansion of world trade. It will consider proposals for eliminating barriers to world trade in primary commodities and stabilizing world commodity prices. The less developed countries have emphasized their desire to increase their exports of processed, semi-manufactured and manufactured goods as a means of increasing export receipts and diversifying their economies. They have called for international action to assist less developed countries overcome problems resulting from shortfalls in export earnings. Co-operative action along these and other lines is being sought