

new needs, however, we can envisage an expanded secretariat.

At this Review Session, I must stress the importance of each of our governments being willing to submit its trade measures to the scrutiny and to the rules of the Contracting Parties. Our internationally agreed principles will not work in practice if individual governments attempt to withhold large areas of their trading policies from the scope of the General Agreement. Various proposals are on the table, at the present time, which indicate that some delegations regard some of their trading problems as too difficult to subject them to our agreed rules. I do not intend to intervene in the details of negotiations which are at present in progress, but I cannot let this subject go unmentioned. The General Agreement will be seriously undermined, if individual Contracting Parties insist upon important reservations. Proposals of this kind are particularly disturbing in the field of agricultural trade, upon which depends the livelihood of so many countries. Trade in agricultural products accounts for too large a proportion of world trade to expect that the General Agreement can function effectively without exercising its principles in this field. The balance of mutual advantages represented by the concessions set forth in the General Agreement would be too much upset by such changes. It is the earnest hope of my Government that mutually satisfactory solutions can be reached on this subject.

The continuation of the General Agreement is, of course, not at stake at this Review Session. Most of the Contracting Parties have declared themselves in favour of strengthening it. Let us face the fact, however, that the agreement would become ineffective if individual governments were to insist upon pursuing a purely selfish course. It is worthwhile, therefore, to reflect on where we would be without this agreement. If there were no GATT, we would be certain to have a great deal of conflict on trade matters, between the major trading countries. For lack of agreed rules, and for lack of a forum in which to resolve disputes, difficulties would become enhanced and all of those involved would pay a heavy price. In questions of international trade, smaller countries might lack any effective voice at all.

It is a great tribute to the development of international co-operation, that all of our delegations meet here as equals. When we look around this room, we see a chair at the table for one representative of each country. When our proceedings require a vote to be taken, each country casts just one vote.