

sympathetic attitude towards the problems which they face. On their part, the responsible members of the United States Administration are well known to us in the Canadian Government, and I believe they understand our problems. Reasonable solutions have been reached in several difficult cases which have arisen in recent years. In 1953, for example, the United States Government discussed with Canada imposition of import restrictions on oats, and in 1954, on barley and rye. On the Canadian side, we were, of course, unhappy at the idea of any restrictions being imposed. At the same time, we understood the necessities of the situation in which our United States friends found themselves. Quotas were finally established which safeguarded our normal trade with the United States. Furthermore, the quotas are temporary and subject to early reconsideration.

The important thing is not that the United States has been granted a waiver, although in my opinion it would have been better for all concerned, and for the GATT, if the request had never been made. The important thing is how the United States acts under the waiver. It is up to all of us, I suggest, to reserve judgment and to avoid jumping to hasty conclusions.

For obvious reasons, this United States request for a waiver dominated the recent session of the GATT from the Canadian point of view. In other respects, however, I believe that the essential integrity of the General Agreement was preserved. Earlier hopes that the trade rules would be very much strengthened in the direction of hastening the elimination of quantitative restrictions imposed for balance of payments reasons had to be abandoned, for the most part. On the other hand, there was no weakening, and I am inclined to think that in practise the amendments to the trade rules, while relatively minor, are in the right direction.

In Europe, as in the United States, one of the central problems is how to deal with agricultural import restrictions which have been in effect in many European countries for a quarter of a century. At the recent session of the GATT, this problem was studied at great length and a procedure worked out for the gradual elimination of what is termed the "hardcore" of import restrictions which are likely to remain when balance of payments difficulties have been eliminated.

The recent negotiations at Geneva were also confronted with another type of problem. Many of the countries which participate in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade are among the economically under-developed countries of Asia and Latin America. These countries confront real difficulties, which the rest of us recognize. They are not going to be able, at an early date, to participate fully in the reduction of trade barriers and the attainment of the convertibility of world currencies. Most of these countries are still in need of our sympathetic aid and assistance in the solution of their own problems. It is in the interest of more advanced