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AGRICULTURE AND CANADA'S TRADE POLICY

The following is part of an address on "Canadian trade policy, particularly as it relates to trade in agricultural products" by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, at a joint meeting of Rotary and Canadian Clubs in Regina, Saskatchewan, on July 15:

... First let me review some of the basic elements. Perhaps the best starting-point might be a reference to the development of the European Economic Community. This venture of six European countries - Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Luxembourg - is proving to be a dynamic enterprise. While they have run into important and complex problems with respect to agriculture within the Community, the progress toward economic integration has been accelerated. There is in prospect an integrated economic unit in Europe comparable in population and industrial strength to that of the United States.

The other European countries, including Britain, have indicated an interest in associating themselves in one way or another with this European plan of economic integration. While Britain's negotiations for accession to the Community broke down early this year, it seems clear that membership in the Community continues to be a long-term British objective.

I draw attention to this regional development not by way of reflecting a worry or concern as to

what it might mean for traditional patterns of international trade; rather, to indicate the kind of forces in the international trade field that we must meet and deal with in a positive and constructive way. These developments inevitably mean change and, given positive and constructive policies, such change can be made to contribute toward the economic well-being of Canada and other trading nations.

NEW NATIONS TO THE FORE

Second, I would mention the forces generated by the emerging countries. The community of nations has increased enormously in numbers in the post-war period. In Africa and Asia new nations are making their hopes and aspirations felt. The older countries in various parts of the world which have not so far been able to achieve a reasonable and fair standard of well-being for their peoples also require better accommodation in the international trading community. It is only right and proper that all these countries should make their needs and aspirations known, and it is incumbent on the more industrialized countries, on the countries that are better off, to do all they can to help them in this direction.

Finally, I would mention the very real problem that has plagued the international trading community with respect to agriculture. While very substantial progress has been made in reducing barriers to trade in industrial materials, progress

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