

nation, dependent in large degree for its wellbeing on world market prices for a number of basic commodities. To some extent Canada finds itself in a position comparable to that of the less-developed countries. We are, for example, subject to many of the same dangers arising from fluctuations in the prices of raw materials, although of course our problems may be different in complexity and to some degree, in nature, from those of the countries of Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and South and Southeast Asia. I make this point to emphasize that so-called developed countries such as my own frequently are confronted with economic problems of similar type, although not perhaps of the same magnitude, as the less-developed countries.

We therefore recognize with particular sympathy ... that the success of the development programmes now going forward in many less-developed countries is dependent on the growth and stability of their external trade.

Canada is a member of the Committee on International Commodity Trade, and my delegation was gratified to hear Mr. de Seynes say that "the Committee on International Commodity Trade is now apparently becoming more and more important as a meeting place for exchanges of views between the governments which are alive to the consequences of fluctuations in commodity prices on the economic growth of the under-developed countries, and on the balance and expansion of international trade." The Interim Coordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements has also been able, with assistance from the United Nations Secretariat, to play an important role in initiating discussions leading to commodity agreements. Canada considers that commodity problems should be approached commodity by commodity if the most satisfactory results are to be achieved. For this reason we participate in the international commodity agreements for sugar, tin and wheat, and in the Cotton Advisory Committee. We have also taken part in various commodity study groups, such as that recently organized for lead and zinc, and those arranged for rubber and coffee.

The study of commodity and trade problems has also actively engaged the attention of the contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, of which my country, in common with so many others represented here, is one. Committee III of the GATT, which was established to examine trade problems confronting the less-developed countries, has already succeeded in eliminating or reducing certain restrictions on imports. Similarly, Committee II of the GATT, which was established to deal with the world-wide problem of agricultural protectionism, has undertaken a most ambitious programme for examination of the agricultural policies of individual countries.

From the foregoing ... it will be apparent that my delegation views with favour the enlarged area which has been opened to multi-lateral trade agreements. I should, perhaps say that we are by no means opposed to all types of bilateral agreements. Indeed, we have negotiated a wide variety of bilateral arrangements including, for example, an agreement with the U.S.S.R. and other countries with which we have long-established trading relationships. Our difficulties in the United Nations and elsewhere in this field are with narrow bilateral or other agreements which present a closed front to the rest of the trading world. It is for this reason that Canada has firmly and actively supported the GATT in its endeavours to break down trade barriers erected in earlier years by narrow and restrictive trade agreements.