

in no exclusive spirit, keeping before them at all times the goal of a multilateral trade and payments system over the widest possible area. It was a source of profound satisfaction to the Canadian Government and to Canadian businessmen that as a direct consequence of that Conference a number of quantitative import restrictions were removed or reduced by the United Kingdom, Australia and Malaya. In addition to its economic and trade accomplishments, the Montreal Conference offered renewed proof, if any were needed, of the vitality of the Commonwealth, of its endless ability to grow and to adapt itself to changing circumstances, and, above all, of the unique role it fills in providing what might be called a bridge of brotherhood between North America, Europe, Asia -- indeed, all the five continents on the earth.

Governmental participation in multilateral organizations and conferences of the kinds which I have been describing can do no more than create the framework within which freer international trade can develop. They require vigorous follow-up action by private business interests and by governments to develop trade opportunities and to exercise constant vigilance to ensure that misunderstandings and obstacles do not arise in our dealings with individual countries. Nowhere is this more true than of our trade relations with the United States which play such an important role in the economic well-being of Canada. The founding in 1957 of the Canadian-American Committee, with which some of you, I know, are connected, has done much to facilitate the frank and friendly examination of Canadian and American problems by private individuals and businessmen. At the Cabinet level, the Joint United States-Canadian Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs, the last meeting of which was held in Ottawa early in January, permits the kind of consultation which is essential to the understanding of our manifold mutual problems.

Admittedly there is still room for more effective co-operation and frank consultation at both private and government levels. Consultation, it should be noted, is not an end in itself but a means of eliminating harmful conflict in our trade relations. To succeed, it must include a reasonable expectation that policies complained of will be modified or ameliorated. Consultation for its own sake or to obscure the absence of constructive mutual accommodation could be not only futile but harmful to the good relations between our two countries.

Less than a week ago President Eisenhower announced that a system of mandatory controls was being imposed on imports to the United States of crude oil and its principal derivatives. The justification for this action was said to be the security interests of the United States, but it is the Canadian Government's firm, and we are convinced reasonable, contention that there can be no justification on security or on any other grounds for the application of such