Canada and U.S. Ministerial Meeting

[*English*]

TRADE

STATEMENT BY MINISTER FOLLOWING CANADA-U.S. MINISTERIAL MEETING

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce: Mr. Speaker, with the co-operation of the house, it was possible for a number of my colleagues and me to attend in Montreal this week the eleventh Canadian-United States ministerial committee on trade, and economic affairs.

The members of the United States delegation were: the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Fowler; the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Freeman; the Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Trowbridge; and Under Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Luce; the Under Secretary of State, Mr. Solomon; the Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Affairs, Mr. Ackley; and Ambassador Butterworth.

The Canadian delegation was comprised, in addition to myself, of the Ministers of Finance (Mr. Sharp), Industry (Mr. Drury), Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Pepin), Agriculture (Mr. Greene), the Governor of the Bank of Canada, Mr. Rasminsky, and Ambassador Ritchie. The parliamentary secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Macdonald) was also present at the meetings.

It was a matter of regret that due to the emergency session of the United Nations general assembly in New York, it was not possible for Mr. Paul Martin and the Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Rusk, to attend and to preside over these meetings. The United States delegation was most ably led by the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Fowler. In Mr. Martin's absence, I was privileged to lead the very good Canadian delegation.

At this point I beg leave to table in English and French a copy of the communiqué, and if it is the wish of hon. members I suggest that it be printed as an appendix to *Hansard*, as has been the practice in previous years.

Mr. Speaker: Has the minister leave to table these documents? Is it the wish of the house that the documents be printed as an appendix to *Hansard?*

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's Note: For communiqué above referred to, see Appendix.*]

Mr. Winters: The most impressive and significant aspect of this meeting was without doubt the forward looking nature of the discussions and the spirit of cordiality and of genuine good will which prevailed. These discussions have proven fruitful and will be of benefit in our day-to-day continuing contacts with the United States government over the weeks and months ahead. This I personally believe is their great merit.

As will be apparent from the communiqué, the committee considered a wide range of important topics of interest to Canada and the United States in the trade, economic and financial fields. These included broad policy issues of a multilateral character in which both our countries have a vital stake and important responsibilities. In addition, a major portion of our discussions was concerned with subjects of special interest in our bilateral relations.

In the forward looking context of the meeting, emphasis was placed on the opportunities for trade which will be presented by the results of the Kennedy round and we agreed to work closely together in studying further trade liberalization opportunities.

In a number of important areas, including co-operation in wheat marketing policies and food aid, the committee decided to strengthen the consultative arrangements between the two countries. On other issues where there are outstanding problems between Canada and the United States, each side had an opportunity to explain its case fully and frankly and to explore the possibilities of early accommodation.

I need not review at this time the many issues that were jointly examined, and which are outlined in the communiqué. I would, however, refer to one or two particular topics.

As will be seen from the communiqué, a very close identity of interest was recorded in the matter of the approach of the two countries to the problem of international liquidity and the need for general agreement on a contingency plan for reserve expansion.

We had a most useful exchange of views on the important question of foreign investment in Canada. This meeting provided a further opportunity for Canadian ministers to re-emphasize the government's intention to maintain a favourable climate for foreign investment in Canada, while encouraging increased Canadian participation in the control and ownership of our economy.

Special attention was also devoted to the important question of energy resources between the two countries. The United States