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## REPORT ON A NEW ERA IN WORLD AFFAIRS

Opening the debate on supply in the House of Commons on January 24, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, expressed "the belief that we have now moved into a new era in the world". By way of illustration, he mentioned "the movement of Great Britain into the European Community" and the fact that "we have seen France and West Germany signing a treaty of friendship covering political questions, economic questions and military questions". The text of Mr. Green's statement continued as follows in part:

"...I believe that in the Commonwealth at the present time we are in a state of flux. I had the privilege of attending the prime ministers' conference in September of last year, and naturally every one of the delegates there was very much interested in the question whether Great Britain would go into the European Community, and what the future of the Commonwealth was to be. Whether one thought that Great Britain should or should not go in, a great deal of thought was given to the future of the Commonwealth. I think the value of the Commonwealth was impressed upon the mind of everyone there, and I have no doubt on the minds of millions of people in the various nations of the Commonwealth.

### TRADE CHANGES

"Again, in the field of trade, we are now in a period when very far-reaching changes may take place in the trade carried on in various parts of the world. That question, of course, was of great importance in connection with the British and European Community negotiations, but it is also important in many other spheres. I recall to Hon. Members at this point the statement which was

made by our own Prime Minister at the prime ministers' conference with regard to this question, when he made a proposal which I think can roughly be described from the following notes of his comments:

"I propose that this conference should declare its intention to extend an invitation to all member nations of the Commonwealth, of the EEC, EFTA, the U.S.A. and Japan and other likeminded nations, indicating a desire to participate, to meet at the earliest practicable date to give consideration as to how to deal with the trading problems before us in a way which will be to the mutual advantage of all."

"That idea, or something very much like it, may very well be the course that is followed eventually. However, Hon. Members will recall that in the next month, in October of last year, the United States Congress approved important new trade legislation under which the United States was to participate in forthcoming international tariff negotiations. At that time, in an exchange of letters between our Prime Minister and President Kennedy, it was agreed that Canada and the United States should take the initiative in proposing a meeting of the ministers of the GATT contracting parties to discuss important trade developments and to make plans for the GATT tariffs and trade conference. That has now been carried out. A joint Canada-United States proposal for such a ministerial meeting was accepted in November of 1962 and the GATT Council, which is not, of course, a ministerial council, is to meet on February 18. It will set a date for this ministerial meeting, and it is expected that the ministerial meeting of GATT will be held about the middle of May.

(Over)