

governments are impelled to take may harm the interest of farmers in other lands. As surpluses arise they are shipped abroad where interference may result in the normal trade of other nations.

Canada has suffered for many years from the consequences of efforts by other countries to foster their agriculture. We have had to take action, and the effects thereof have been felt by other nations. While trying to minimize these detrimental effects, it is agreed that they cannot be eliminated entirely.

To buy up surpluses from other countries entering our markets and seek to sell them elsewhere would not correct the general situation. The difficulty of solution is so widespread that no one nation can hope to overcome it by unilateral action, or in groups as relatively small as that comprised in the Commonwealth. It might, therefore, be desirable for all the nations that are substantial producers or importers of food to undertake in co-operation a systematic review of the conditions of world trade in agricultural products and the rules under which such trade can be carried out with harmony and good sense. The Government of Canada would be prepared to join in such an effort, for which the machinery set up under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade provides a convenient forum for a realistic discussion.

Food Bank

Out of such a review would come useful ideas to be applied in the setting up of a food bank. We must expect surpluses of food to persist and unless and until means can be devised to remove them from commercial trade and use them to meet the needs of those who cannot produce or afford to buy the food their peoples need for proper sustenance.

I would like to see a transfer of surpluses undertaken co-operatively by the major producing countries on a reasonably systematic basis. Emergency requirements could be promptly met from such stockpiles, and under-developed nations needing food would have a source from which to meet their needs.

Most members of the Commonwealth are concerned with the instability in markets and prices for primary products. This instability certainly makes doubly difficult the effective and orderly economic development of those member nations which depend largely upon the export of such products. We have joined in agreements to stabilize prices of tin and sugar, of which we are consumers, as well as in the agreement on wheat, of which we are an important producer. We stand ready to examine in detail, and in good faith, proposals for other agreements. We believe the wheat agreement has been of value, and we shall take a lead in seeking its extension next year, and the participation of the United Kingdom in it.