

International commodity agreements have an important role to play in improving the trade prospects of developing countries, and international co-operation in this area of work should be continued and intensified.

Recent discussions of trade measures to help the developing countries have centered on the question of a system of temporary generalized tariff preferences extended by all developed countries to all developing countries. It is clear that the Contracting Parties will need to address themselves to any consensus on this matter which may emerge at the UNCTAD Conference. If there is to be some special tariff treatment for exports of developing countries, we must ensure that its impact is equitable and that it does not impede or prejudice movements towards further trade liberalization on a non-discriminatory basis.

The expansion of trade opportunities for the LDCs must continue to go hand-in-hand with sustained high levels of aid.

Reference has been made in other quarters to the growing disparity between the total aid flow from the developed world and the steadily increasing absorptive capacity, as well as the mounting needs of the developing world.

Canada strongly supports, as a first step, the proposals made by World Bank President George Woods that an independent and authoritative group of key personalities should conduct a full-scale review of the last 20 years of aid efforts and performance. This study should assess the current situation, and should recommend a new programme of exceptional action of sufficient scale to deal with the critical aid challenge of the future.

Mr. Chairman, much has been accomplished in the GATT over the past two decades. This in a sense is an anniversary and we all like to make special efforts on such occasions. But any time is a good time to look ahead. We are on the threshold of a new era with new issues, requiring new initiatives. It is up to the governments represented here to ensure that the challenge of the future is successfully met.

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