

As regards the basic question of future institutional arrangements, it is our belief that we can only see clearly what will be required when we approach the end of our deliberations. We shall then have a better idea of what is likely to emerge as a result of the conference. In general, we are not in favour of setting up a new organization of a more or less independent character. Rather, we should be more inclined to adapt the existing machinery to make it more responsive to the problems of the developing countries. Indeed, encouraging progress is already being made in that direction.

This ... is the position of the Canadian delegation at the outset of this conference.

Freeing of Trade Channels

It will be clear from my presentation that we believe that much more can be done and must be done to free the channels of trade. We think that, if this were done, the developing countries would have a better opportunity of competing on terms which would bring into play their natural advantages as efficient producers of certain commodities and manufactures. The freeing of trade channels would also help overcome the effects of undue protectionism in the developed countries and lead, of itself, to some of that international division of labour to which reference has already been made in this conference. But I do not want to suggest that the freeing of the channels of trade is all that requires to be done. The range of problems which we have come to consider is vast and no single nor simple solution for them is likely to be possible. We are prepared...to join others at this conference in exploring patiently all avenues along which solutions may lie. We have come to listen to the views and preoccupations of others, as much as to share with them our experiences as a young and expanding country.

The object of the conference, as we see it, will be to contribute to the solution of problems which are crucial to the well-being of a very large proportion of the human race. They are urgent problems and their solution is urgent. Many new nations have come into being over the past decade or so. Their governments are concerned - as they must be concerned - to ensure that the political independence they have achieved should find fruition in rising standards of living, in better health and improved opportunities for education, and in the greater happiness of all their people. The urgency of this task is such that they cannot accomplish it by themselves. The more-developed countries must come to their aid, recognizing that, in a world which is becoming daily more interdependent, the conditions under which mankind lives will have to be brought into a more equitable relation. It has been said of the people of the developing countries that they are embarked on a "revolution of rising expectations". It is to take a step forward in the direction of meeting these expectations...that this conference has been called, and I am glad to be able to pledge the active co-operation of the Canadian delegation in the work in which we are about to engage.