

- 4) an agreement on government procurement;
- 5) an agreement on import licensing procedures;
- 6) an agreement on customs valuation; and
- 7) an understanding on ways in which certain of the general obligations of the GATT should in future be applied with a view to improving the international trading framework. Amongst other things this will provide a firmer basis for special and differential treatment for developing countries.

Final agreement on "safeguards", that is to say, emergency actions against injurious imports, has not yet been reached. Negotiations are, however, continuing in order to resolve differences, particularly as regards the application of safeguards against one or more countries rather than against all sources of such imports as is presently the case.

These agreements, when accepted and implemented by our trading partners, will be valuable for Canada insofar as they bring under better control many non-tariff barriers which have faced our exporters. There will be a desirable gain in "transparency" as to the various practices of other governments which may impair access to their markets. Moreover, international surveillance and dispute settlement procedures have been agreed to help ensure that the anticipated benefits will in fact be realized. Acceptance by the U.S. government that injury must be found before countervailing duties can be applied is a particularly notable gain for Canada.

The new agreement on subsidies and countervailing duties, the agreed revisions to the existing anti-dumping code and the prospective new arrangements for "safeguard" action will strengthen Canada's capacity to deal speedily and effectively with unfair trade practices and injurious imports. At the same time, the new rules will limit the capacity of foreign governments to act arbitrarily against Canadian exporters.

The agreement on valuation will establish uniform rules to be applied by all governments in determining the value of imported goods for customs purposes. Canada has indicated that it would be willing to bring its valuation system into conformity with the agreement on the understanding that we would be able to take measures to offset any significant loss of protection that might result and that Canada would have several years to make the change.

In most cases, because legislative changes would be involved for participants, the above non-tariff agreements are not expected to enter into force until after 1980.