

particularly because it does represent the various races of the world. It gives us a place where we can sit down and discuss problems in an environment that is not matched anywhere else.

THE PRESS: Could I ask a question about that. The British seem to be writing it down. I wonder if you foresee that we might step in and fill a lot of the vacuum that they seem to be prepared to leave in the Commonwealth field?

MR. SHARP: No, I would think that the nature of the Commonwealth itself is changing; this is another aspect of this changing world. Even in a few years the nature of the Commonwealth has changed, and I expect it will go on changing. We look upon it as a place where there can be useful discussions of world problems. This has proved to be the case and as long as it continues to be a useful forum of this kind, we will support it. I do not think it would be reasonable for Canada to replace the United Kingdom which, after all, was the country that once had all these independent states as colonies. I do not think that we should replace the position of the United Kingdom. I still think, however, that we can retain a useful part; indeed, from time to time take very useful initiatives, just as Mr. Pearson did in using the Commonwealth for the promotion of world peace and prosperity. I would expect that we will continue to do that. But there are limitations, of course, in the Commonwealth.

THE PRESS: Mr. Sharp, in connection with the Commonwealth, what do you see as the future of Commonwealth preferences tariff-wise? Do you see any changes there?

MR. SHARP: No, I would not think so. The Commonwealth preferences have gradually been whittled away by international trade negotiations over the years and I see no likelihood of any reversal. Indeed, a reversal would be contrary to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade which, as you know, has a rule that there shall be no increases in preferences. So, inevitably trade preferences within the Commonwealth or in other areas of the world are being whittled away.

THE PRESS: I was thinking really of free entry between this country and Britain, and I know that there is a feeling, perhaps, in Britain with regard to extensive use now of soft wheat and whether Canada would feel that her wheat markets