

## **Election of Officers**

At the conclusion of the twentieth session, the Contracting Parties elected Mr. J. H. Warren as their Chairman for the twenty-first session. Mr. Warren, who served in the Department of External Affairs from 1945 to 1954 and from 1957 to 1958, is Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Trade and Commerce.

## **Twenty-first Session**

The Contracting Parties decided to hold the twenty-first session in Geneva from October 22 to November 15, 1963.

*The following are the texts of the messages exchanged by Prime Minister Diefenbaker and President Kennedy before the opening of the GATT twentieth session:*

October 16

Dear Mr. President,

With the enactment of the Trade Expansion Act, I wish to let you know that the Canadian Government welcomes this development in United States trade policy, which holds out promise for significant progress in the expansion of world trade on a multilateral basis. This is indeed an historic accomplishment.

At the Commonwealth prime ministers' conference in London last month, I proposed that all like-minded nations should meet at an early date to consider how the great problems of trade facing us today can be dealt with to the mutual advantage of all. I would like to follow up this general proposal with a specific suggestion for an early meeting on these matters. It is vitally important that we find effective ways as soon as possible for dealing with these complex and urgent trade problems. It appears that the most convenient way of arranging such a meeting would be to discuss these broad questions at a meeting of ministers.

The Canadian Government looks forward to participating fully in these efforts and to working with the United States and other nations to achieve the objectives which we hold in common. It is our conviction that the opportunities now opened up for wider co-operation in trade and economic relations will make a major contribution to the further strengthening of the free world.

Trade relations between Canada and the United States are characterized by mutual understanding and a constructive approach to our common objective of freer, non-discriminatory trade. These new efforts to expand world trade will provide continuing opportunities for our two countries to work closely together, each in a full understanding of the other's interest and aspirations.

October 18

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter on the occasion of my signature of the Trade Expansion Act. I am pleased to know that the Canadian Government welcomes this most significant development in the trade policy of the United States.