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Statement by Mr. Gordon Churchill, the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, at the Plenary Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade at Geneva, on October 17, 1958

Last year I had the pleasure of attending the twelfth session of GATT on behalf of the Canadian Government. I am very glad to be here again. The GATT remains the major international institution for the joint development of constructive trade policies, and it is important to all of us that its effectiveness be maintained and increased.

One way, and a very desirable way, of increasing the stature of GATT is through the accession, on suitable terms, of additional contracting parties. Accordingly, I should like to say how happy I am to see Switzerland represented at our council table at this time, and to know that Switzerland is soon to assume even closer relationships with the GATT.

I also wish to say how pleased we are with the announcement made yesterday by the Minister for India, that India has decided to withdraw the application of Article XXXV with respect to Japan, and that India and Japan have thus assumed full GATT relations with each other. We very much hope that other countries still resorting to Article XXXV will also find it possible to take similar steps.

Last month Canada was privileged to act as host to a Trade and Economic Conference of Commonwealth countries, countries which, while of widely different backgrounds and interests, are bound together by special ties of kinship and historical association. At that Conference the countries of the Commonwealth, all represented here as members of the GATT, reaffirmed their determination to join with other countries in the freeing and expansion of world trade and payments, and in the solution of the many important problems of trade and development. This was an outward-looking Conference, conscious of the fact that world problems demand world-wide solutions, and conscious also that the