

To Negotiate as Equals

The Western leaders are prepared to approach the negotiating table as equals with no thought of supremacy on one side or the other, or the superiority of any particular political system. Canada has consistently pressed for negotiations of this kind and is prepared to go on pressing, whether in Geneva, in New York or elsewhere, until they actually take place. This is the basis of my plea for international co-operation, the reason for my restatement of some of the basic principles and obligations of the United Nations Charter.

In a few days, I shall be travelling to London to attend the Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers. The main discussion will relate to the negotiations between the British Government and the members of the European Economic Community. As well, I expect that the Prime Ministers will wish to exchange views on many of the problems which I have discussed tonight, as they affect the Commonwealth.

Trade Winds Over Europe

We are witnessing great changes in world trade. Western Europe has been rebuilt from the devastation of war; it is again a great competitive trading power. Six countries - France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg - have created a Common Market which is establishing new trade rules among themselves and already having its effects on their trade with the rest of the world. Britain is now negotiating for entry into this Community.

These developments present challenges and opportunities to all world trading nations.

Canada supports the expansion of world trade on a multilateral, non-discriminatory basis. On many occasions we have expressed our readiness to play a constructive part in the promotion of freer world trade.

U.S. Trade Programme

It is most gratifying that the United States should have been prompt to take up the challenge. The new trade programme which President Kennedy has submitted to the Congress would enable the United States to display the kind of leadership which will make possible the realisation of our objectives. Under their new trade programme the United States would negotiate with Common Market countries the gradual elimination of United States and Common Market tariffs over a wide variety of goods which are mainly produced in these areas. This programme would also permit the gradual reduction of United States duties up to 50 per cent on other goods.