

support the enabling resolution in its final form. Included amongst these 33 member states, as indicated on page 13 of the report now before us, we find not only many of the major trading nations but also twelve who can be termed "developing countries" -- in whose very interest the conference is to be held. To my mind this comes close to being a tragedy. On a question of such importance, we should aim at nothing less than unanimity.

Perhaps it would be appropriate, at this stage, to refer to my own Delegation's position. In the vote on the resolution as a whole in Committee, Canada voted in favour. We made no secret of our unhappiness at the strict injunction to call the conference into session "not later than September 1963". We believed, and still believe, that the target is impossible to aim for with any certainty at this time. Conceivably, the Conference may be possible to convene by July 1963; if so, so much the better. But everything depends on the preparatory work. As nearly as we can estimate, and we are as fallible as anyone, relying only on past experience, the sort of conference we all want to see -- a working conference which will emerge with positive proposals for concrete solution to the problems of the developing countries -- will be more likely to take place in the very early part of 1964. The co-sponsors, in an important statement interpreting the text of their resolution, a statement which was included in our report, pointed out that the resolution simply made recommendations to ECOSOC. It would, they said, be up to ECOSOC alone to take the final decision on the date and scope of the conference. However, my Delegation for one does not wish to put ECOSOC in the uncomfortable position of going against a solemn recommendation of this Assembly, if that recommendation proves impossible to put into effect. These were, and are, the objections which my Delegation had to the text of operative paragraph 3 contained in the resolution recommended in document A/5316. Nonetheless, we voted for the resolution, because we shared the sense of urgency of the developing countries that a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should be held as soon as possible.