

In addition to the situation in Europe, there is also the need for the Free World to raise standards everywhere and to this end assistance to under-developed nations and areas is important. Material aid, however, has carried with it a suspicion among Asian and African peoples as to the objectives that the Free World has in mind as it distributes the largesse of humanitarian aid.

The Government has also encouraged exchanges of visits between Soviet and Canadian individuals and delegations in the cultural and scientific fields on a reciprocal basis.

The general principle which underlies Canadian thinking in this regard is that no reasonable effort should be spared to develop an inter-flow of knowledge and ideas which will help in creating a better understanding between Canada and the Soviet Union. Mutual knowledge helps to dispel mutual suspicion.

It is important in this respect that normal courtesy and restraint be shown towards Soviet visitors and Soviet diplomatic representatives.

What the forces of freedom stand for is little known to the peoples of the uncommitted world. I believe that there should be a joint declaration similar in kind to the Atlantic Charter, which will set forth the idealism and dynamic aspects for good of the forces of freedom and emphasize the willingness to work for the achievements of better economic conditions in an atmosphere in which equality and tolerance, personal dignity and freedom, can be assured to peoples everywhere, whatever their colour or race.

I would turn now for a few minutes to a discussion of another subject of great importance to all of us as Canadians. I refer to the relations in the economic field between the countries of the Commonwealth, and to the place they occupy in the broader context of world trade.

As you all know, Canada took the initiative in holding a Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference in Montreal in September of 1958, and I think it would be useful to pause briefly to look back on that event in the perspective of the developments of the past year and to assess what it has meant to Canada. The central theme of that Conference was "An Expanding Commonwealth in an Expanding World". In other words, the main emphasis was placed on the inter-dependence not only of the member countries of the Commonwealth itself but of all the trading nations of the Free World.

The conference re-affirmed the common objective of freer trade and payments, and agreed that dollar discrimination should be progressively reduced and ended as soon as possible.