



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE FUTURE ROLE OF GATT

Translation of a speech delivered in French at the Fifteenth Session of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Tokyo, on October 27, 1959, by Mr. Leon Balcer, Solicitor General of Canada.

...Both Canada and Japan are countries of the Pacific. Japan is one of Canada's most important markets and my country is a growing importer of Japanese goods. We value our trade relations with Japan and the close links between our two countries. Canada and Japan have exchanged most-favoured nation treatment through the GATT. We have found that, when problems arise in our trade, it is possible, in a friendly and constructive way, to find workable solutions acceptable to both countries. We look forward to a steady growth in trade in both directions to the mutual advantage of our two countries. We are most grateful for the hospitality of the Japanese Government on the important occasion of the Fifteenth Session, and especially in connection with the current meeting of Trade Ministers. I trust our deliberations will be as fruitful as our reception in Japan has been gracious and generous.

Canada continues to attach great importance to the basic principles and objectives of the General Agreement and their faithful implementation. This flows naturally from our profound interest in international trade and from the conviction that trade problems are best dealt with on the broadest possible multilateral basis. The GATT embraces over forty countries, which together are responsible for 90 percent of world trade. At this Session, we welcome the participation of Israel and Yugoslavia, and the Contracting Parties have before them a declaration providing for the establishment of closer and more effective relations with Poland. The family of GATT countries is growing and this is as it should be. It is recognition also of the mounting appreciation throughout the world of the value of multilateralism in world trade.

The GATT is the only instrument of international cooperation in the trade field which brings together trading countries on a world-wide basis. It is vital that full use be