

TWO CRUCIAL TRADE CONFERENCES

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across-the-board cuts where appropriate. On this basis, we are approaching the negotiations in a positive way. Our position will be one in which Canada's economic interests are fully safeguarded and in which Canada receives full value in exchange for concessions granted....

DEMANDS OF EMERGENT NATIONS

...During the last decade, we have seen many new nations come into existence. These nations are striving to improve the economic conditions of their people. Pressures are mounting for greater recognition of the special trade problems of less-developed countries and for action by the rest of the world which would give these countries the opportunity for economic growth through greater trade. To date their trade growth has not been satisfactory. And there are dangers of a widening political and economic gulf between the highly industrialized countries of the Western world and the less-developed countries....

What problems stand in the way of the export trade of these less-developed nations? One obvious problem is that of the chronic short-term fluctuations in the prices of tropical commodities such as cocoa and coffee. As an important importer of tropical products, Canada has undertaken to co-operate in international efforts to stabilize prices in the best interest of producers and consumers. Another problem is the difficulty experienced by many less-developed countries in expanding their own production for export. We are attempting to help these countries surmount this problem through aid and technical assistance. However, such aid would be of little value if the products of these countries were met on international markets with restriction and discrimination. Many products of the less-developed countries continue to be confronted with import restrictions, high internal taxes and import charges.

CANADA'S LIBERAL IMPORT POLICY

On this point we, in Canada, need not plead guilty. Our import regime, so far as it applies to the major tropical exports of the less-developed countries, is among the most liberal in the world. Our tariffs on such items are either negligible or have been removed altogether. Ours is a free market for tropical products with no quantitative limitations on imports and our internal tax structure does not inhibit consumption of these important earners of foreign exchange for the less-developed world....

The problems of these developing countries were placed before ministers of GATT nations last May in Geneva. At that time, on behalf of Canada, I declared that we attached "the highest importance to expanding the export opportunities of the developing countries", and that we would be prepared to join with other developed countries in removing

barriers to the trade of less-developed countries. I also noted that the scope for opening up markets for the products of the developing countries was perhaps greatest in the context of the new round of tariff negotiations in GATT—the "Kennedy round"—, which should lead to meaningful reductions in tariff and non-tariff barriers to world trade, including exports of interest to the less-developed countries. In fact, it has been generally agreed that, in the forthcoming multilateral tariff negotiations, the industrialized countries will ensure, as far as possible, that the products of interest to less-developed countries would be included in the negotiations and that tariff reductions of benefit to the less-developed countries will be made without demanding full reciprocity from the less-developed countries concerned.

UN TRADE CONFERENCE

The international trading community is also concentrating much attention on the problems of the developing countries at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development which is now taking place in Geneva. At this forum the trade problems of the less-developed countries are being discussed thoroughly in relation to their overall economic development....

Canada supported the resolution advocating the Conference and expressed its willingness to join with others in ensuring its successful outcome. In our view, there is no conflict between the GATT activities in this field and the work of the United Nations Conference. They are to a large extent working towards the parallel objectives of lowering barriers to world trade, and finding positive ways of expanding trade as an instrument of economic development....

THE CANADIAN EXPERIENCE

Canada is prepared to make a full contribution to help the efforts of the developing countries. In these endeavours, certain features of our Canadian experience may give us a special appreciation of the needs and problems of developing countries. Through our Commonwealth associations, we have for many years been accustomed to co-operate closely with countries in Asia, Africa and elsewhere which are at various stages of economic development. We have become acquainted with their people and their leaders. Furthermore, Canada occupies in certain respects a unique position in the international trading community. Canada is not a large industrial nation; it is not associated with any regional economic grouping; at the same time it follows a multilateral trade policy and supports efforts for the liberalization of international trade. These factors suggest that Canada may be able to play an important role in the relationship between the highly industrialized nations and the less-developed countries....
