

such a scheme. It is our hope that its implementation on a world wide basis will soon be initiated.

The Problem of Want

Now I come to another question. Disarmament deserves high priority in our deliberations because it seeks to remove the means of waging war. The acting secretary general has emphasized in his annual report the need to eradicate the basic causes of war—poverty, famine and disease. The economic and the social work of the United Nations goes along so quietly that it does not always receive the public attention it deserves. And yet success in raising living standards in the less developed areas and in expanding and stabilizing world trade may, in the long run, determine the question of war and peace.

The role of the United Nations in providing an effective framework for economic and social development is well established. There will, I am sure, be no disagreement over the importance of the various assistance programmes. These essential activities must be adequately supported. In the decade of development we should strive to make increasingly effective use of existing institutions. For its part, the Canadian government will continue to support these United Nations efforts and at the same time to maintain our bilateral aid programs.

The promotion of sound trading conditions is at least as important as the provision of aid. In fact, the recent commonwealth conference considered that question and they had this to say: “. . . improved opportunities and conditions for trade are even more important than financial aid”. That was the unanimous opinion of all the countries represented.

Canada has sought in the United Nations and outside to promote international arrangements and institutions—for example, the general agreement on tariff and trade—which would encourage the expansion of trade on a multilateral and non-discriminatory basis. This will be our attitude in examining the economic and social council's recommendation for a conference on trade and development in 1964.

Such a conference will provide one opportunity for a discussion on strengthening the world trading system. While some problems can be dealt with only in a world wide forum other aspects of trade can be examined usefully by countries whose trading systems—and hence trading problems—are most alike. For example at the recent commonwealth meeting Canada proposed an early conference of a group of countries to discuss their common trading problems. Such a conference

would in fact help to prepare the way for wider, non-discriminatory tariff negotiations on a most favoured nation basis.

Commonwealth and Emerging Nations

I should like to say a few words now about the commonwealth and emerging nations. In London we welcomed four countries that have joined this family of free and independent nations within the last year—Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. This brought the number of nations participating fully in the commonwealth conference to a total of 15. All but four—those four are the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada—have become independent since the second world war and in each case they have chosen of their own free will to become members of the commonwealth. In addition, there were representatives present from other territories such as Uganda, Kenya and British Guiana which will shortly obtain independence and will in all probability choose to join the commonwealth and, of course, the United Nations. I believe Uganda will be gaining independence in a matter of weeks.

The commonwealth of today is an inspiring example of friendly association of nations of diverse races, cultures, creeds and political institutions. Its members may be divided in their approach to some questions, but they are solidly united in their dedication to the cause of peace and to the promotion of better understanding.

Great credit for this outstanding achievement in international co-operation and for the successful launching of these new nations must be given to the United Kingdom. All other nations of the commonwealth—including Canada, although it is a long time ago in our case—were at one time colonies, and in their progress to nationhood the United Kingdom has given generously and wisely of its aid and guidance.

This being the case, I find it very hard to understand the bitter and sometimes unfair attacks which, from time to time, are made against the United Kingdom on the subject of colonialism. We all know that there are difficulties to be overcome in some territories, but surely the United Kingdom's record of past accomplishment in this field justifies confidence in its intention to guide these peoples to independence.

Unhappily, from this very rostrum and in debates in many other United Nations bodies, the Soviet union has painted quite another picture of these colonial developments. Soviet spokesmen have chosen to disregard peaceful