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TEXT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. M.A.H. ISPAHANI, OF THE  
PAKISTAN DELEGATION, AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT AT HAVANA  
ON NOVEMBER 27, 1947

Mr. President and fellow Delegates:

As we all know, economics more than any other factor has been instrumental in shaping the destiny of nations and the history of human progression the path of civilization is the history of the development of trade between one country and another. The ever growing human wants with their attendant complexities have urged nations to seek contacts with countries far and near and to develop trade and commerce, generally, on mutually advantageous basis. Today, when space has been conquered and the world has shrunk into one whole, it is but natural for our one family of nations to get together to evolve a new economic order which should be in keeping with the needs of the time.

On this historic occasion when the nations of the world have not only to restore the equilibrium of world economy disturbed by the ravages of war but also to create everlasting peace and harmony, Pakistan is happy to associate herself with the efforts to set up an International Trade Organization under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The ideals which this organization hopes to achieve can only be attained if we set ourselves wholeheartedly to the task, appreciate the difficulties of one another and concede what we may to fulfill our obligations as members of the comity of nations. I can assure you, Mr. President, that Pakistan will always respond heartily to the call of the organization, honour her commitments, and contribute her best towards the attainment of the objects to which we all have set our hearts.

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Pakistan is primarily an agricultural country and produces some of the most important basic raw materials such as cotton and jute. She has abundance of unsurveyed and untapped mineral wealth. Her primary need is to industrialize as quickly as possible in order to attain a balanced economy. This is the only road that she can and must take to reduce the pressure on land, give employment to millions and above everything else to raise the existing low standard of living of her masses.

The pressing need for industrialization is bound to make heavy demands on our revenues and unless we have the means to meet these demands it would be unwise to mortgage our resources and think in terms of highly advanced countries whose industrial achievements are nearing or have already reached their climax. To say that the undeveloped countries can, in view of the obligations which the Draft Charter aims at imposing, adopt a different line of action than that which the industrialized countries have followed in the past, is to deny to them the benefit of age long experience and to force them to perform new experiments however hazardous and costly they may turn out to be.

Mr. President, we appreciate the work done by the Preparatory Committee at Geneva. Though the Draft Charter aims at reconciling divergent points of view, I feel Sir, that taken as a whole it leaves us with the impression that due attention has not been paid to the requirements of undeveloped and under-developed countries.

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The difficulties of underdeveloped countries are enormous. These countries require positive assistance and a more liberal treatment than has been accorded to them in the Draft Charter. In return, such countries would naturally be prepared to encourage the flow of foreign capital and importation of talent to the maximum extent consistent with the declared policy of their governments. It is of course recognised that the grant of reasonable facilities and adequate security is a prerequisite of such an encouragement.

I may mention here that unless effective steps are taken to ensure the availability of funds in the currency required by a country, the growth of international trade is likely to be hampered. Multilateral convertibility of various currencies is the best means of providing access to the cheapest market and I believe that this facility will be available to members. This, however, is primarily a matter for the International Monetary Fund and it is expected that the International Trade Organization will endeavor to seek this objective through the good offices of the Fund.

One of the most important operative parts of the Draft Charter is that which relates to the expansion of international trade by the extension of the "most favoured nation" treatment by members to one another without distinction, and the elimination of preferences and reduction of tariffs. With a view to implementing this principle, bilateral trade negotiations were conducted at Geneva and a general agreement on trade and tariffs was drawn up by the participating countries. Pakistan is a signatory to the Act which authenticates this document subject to the formal approval of her Legislature.

In this connection I would like to emphasize that Pakistan came into existence barely two and one half months before the Act was signed by her representative. When negotiations were being conducted at Geneva, British India was still undivided and it was hardly necessary to <sup>send a</sup> separate delegation when negotiations had reached an advanced

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stage. Even at present we feel considerably handicapped in examining the effects of the Agreement on our economy. We have yet to compile statistics, frame our first budget and shape our fiscal policy. Nevertheless in the belief that our interests would not go by default, and that our desire to offer fullest cooperation in the international field is met, we have signed the Act authenticating the general agreement on tariff and trade. I, however, hope that in view of our peculiar position on the date of signing the Act and the circumstances in which we are placed, the Contracting Parties to the Agreement will reciprocate our sincerity and be inclined to re-examine the schedules relating to Pakistan in the light of her new entity as a separate State, on a mutually advantageous basis-- a basis which is one of the essentials of this Agreement.

On a study of the Draft Charter, the Pakistan Delegation feels that it must, in parts, be substantially amended to give full weight in unambiguous language to the views of the undeveloped and underdeveloped countries which comprise an overwhelming majority of the peoples of the world to whose welfare the Organization is pledged. Unless this is done, our attempts to achieve the objectives of the Charter cannot but result in failure.

Mr. President, it is, however, my fervent hope and wish that we make this conference an unqualified success and demonstrate our will to live in peace and to show that compromise is the essence of the growth of all democratic institutions. The sooner we evolve a code of conducting our commercial relations, the better will it be for the world.

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