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SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY THE CHIEF DELEGATE  
OF CHINA AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE HAVANA  
CONFERENCE.

(English Translation)

After four months of arduous work, the Havana Conference is able to present to the world a Charter for the future ITO, thereby registering another milestone on the long road to the establishment of a new order for international trade. While the objective set before us is much nearer, we still have some distance to travel before we can reach the final goal. On account of slow progress of world recovery in the economic domain, a certain number of fundamental principles which are enshrined in the Charter have yet to be implemented. However, I consider that a foundation of stability and equilibrium has been laid for the future.

Through the welter of no less than 800 amendments presented to the Conference, we have produced something which is in fact the synthesis of different schools of thought, and which is flexible enough for various types of economics to wend their way into a common workable pattern of trade relations.

In reading through pages after pages of the Charter, I cannot but feel that whatever its shortcomings, it does represent a delicately balanced document. The obligations assumed under the provisions of one section of the Charter are conditioned upon the fulfilment of those in the other. The seemingly inconsistent obligations have been integrated into a single whole in such a manner that the manifold interests are well taken care of. All this is designed for the single purpose of the promotion of the well-being of the people through the expansion of world trade, the maintenance of full employment, and the encouragement and achievement of economic development. The rights and obligations of the Members are so interwoven that any upsetting of the balance will have to be redressed by compensatory remedies.

(MORE)

As you will all recall, the placid atmosphere and tedious sittings of the Conference have at one time or another been punctuated with what was described as the crisis over the question of the QR for the purposes of development. It may appear to the public that probably due to the publicity that was given to that particular issue, the solution eventually reached in this Conference regarding that question should give ample satisfaction to those countries which are still in the early stages of development. But I believe we have also found solutions to other problems which some of the highly developed countries have considered to be important to them and concerning which they do not wish to be hampered by the restrictions of the Charter. In saying so, I am referring to those provisions which deal with the maintenance of export subsidies of primary commodities and those others which permit departure from the rule of non-discrimination for the purpose of meeting balance of payments difficulties. It seems to me, therefore, that as a result of our deliberations, a realistic view has been taken by all the participating countries in the common endeavour to solve the problems which are faced not only by the less-developed countries, but also by the highly-developed countries as well.

Now that we have drawn up the Havana Charter to be submitted to our respective governments for examination and decision, as well as to the public for their critical study and analysis, it is to the future that we should look forward. The Charter will remain a dead letter unless it is implemented by the concerted action and good-will of the peoples and the governments concerned. I can assure you, Mr. President, that China, true to her traditional policy of international co-operation will make whatever contribution she could towards the realization of the purpose and objectives set before us.

(MORE)

On behalf of the Chinese Delegation, may I express our sentiment of appreciation and gratitude to the Cuban Government for their hospitality and for the delightful surroundings and facilities which have been provided, and without which our work would not have been so successfully concluded. Mr. President, to you, Sir, I wish to say that under your wise guidance we owe much for the success of the Conference. I may be permitted to add that all officers and the members of the secretariat of this Conference deserve high praise from us all for the way in which they contributed to the fruitful result of the Conference.

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