

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

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TEXT OF SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATE OF BRAZIL
AT THE CLOSING SESSION

Mr. President:

It would be superfluous on this occasion to emphasize the significance of the indisputable success of this Conference to a world shaken by the birth of new and terrible problems.

However, we do want to recognize how much intelligence and effort has been spent to make the Charter of Havana the expression of a commercial policy more closely in harmony with the principles of international co-operation.

The growing economic interdependence, the result for the most part of unexampled technological progress, makes imperative the integration of international trade on a mutually advantageous basis so as to permit a balanced expansion of trade.

All countries great and small must be able, without encountering useless or unjust obstacles, to develop their resources to the full while progressively seeking to ensure the well-being and social security of their peoples.

The Charter of Havana despite the faults it may contain, does without doubt represent a categorical affirmation of this just aspiration of mankind. At the same time it is a striking proof of the World's genuine desire to avoid the economic chaos into which it threatens to fall.

Whatever the general or particular reservations which each country must formulate in assessing the Charter, as a whole it undoubtedly represents an auspicious event which we should acclaim.

In spite of this, it will be no more than a useless code, like so many others, if all the countries which are to accept it, do not severally and jointly, make every effort to see that the provisions of the Charter are carried out in an ample spirit of conciliation.

However, this does not signify that we must or that we can hold to the principle of absolute equality of concessions. They must necessarily be evaluated in terms of the differing economic structures and resources of the countries between which they are mutually granted.

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Without an exact knowledge of the true economic standing of the countries which will enter the Organization, it would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to achieve properly satisfying results. The lack of understanding which has characterized commercial policy during the last thirty years must be avoided.

Only a more precise and exact understanding of particular difficulties and conditions in each country, of their just aspirations, and above all of the real objectives and advantages of closer and more equitable co-operation in international trade, could make possible the realization of the aims of the Charter.

Therefore the ITC must also be a centre for investigating the true economic state of the world. Without these essential elements, it will be futile to demand obedience to the Charter or, to claim that International trade is directed with justice and objectivity so as to become an instrument creating wealth in each country and a guarantee of world economic stability without which peace is almost impossible.

Although the Charter of Havana is not the ideal document of which each one of us has dreamed, it does represent the best solution which could have been found either by compromise or by the decision of a majority.

During the discussions, each country has had an opportunity of making its contribution and a clear statement of its true position in the present economic circumstances.

The chapter on economic development, of the greatest interest to us all, reaffirms, it is true, but without the precision and the balance which might have been desired, the already accepted principle that the industrialization of the underdeveloped countries promotes increased consumption and, therefore, international trade, because of the growth in purchasing power.

It was thanks to the combined effort of Brazil, Australia, India and Chile that this chapter was inserted in the London Draft Charter and perfected at Geneva. The active and remarkable contribution of the other countries of Latin America, the Near East and Asia, which took part in the Havana Conference, made it possible to give this chapter the form and the meaning which it now has in the text of the Charter which I shall submit to the Brazilian Government.

It will first be the task of my Government, with its high spirit of international co-operation, to judge the provisions of this text and then to request the National Parliament to study it and take the decision which will allow the formal and definitive acceptance of the Havana Charter by the United States of Brazil.

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I want now to express to the Conference my profound gratitude for the honour it recently paid my country in voting it into the position of a Member of the Executive Committee of the Interim Commission.

In this new body whose task it will be to carry out the very important work which will precede the final establishment of the Organization, Brazil will afford the fullest co-operation.

I want to express to you, Mr. President, and to my colleagues in all the delegations, the respect and esteem with which you have inspired me during our long task. The directors and the staff of the Secretariat have given us immeasurable assistance which I wish also to single out for praise.

In my last remarks before this Assembly and with the regret I feel that I must shortly leave this beautiful and attractive city, I have special pleasure in saying what happy memories I take away with me and how whole-heartedly the delegation of Brazil joins in the gratitude which we all owe to the Government of the Republic of Cuba for their generous hospitality and the courtesy which they have shown to us.
