

distinguishing and acting upon only the necessary cases. They must see and make prevail the point that the national interest is sometimes the world interest rather than the local interest, or they will frequently cut off bits of the national nose to spite some foreign face.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

EXTENSIVE EFFORTS AT GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC COLLABORATION

Governments are responding to the imperatives of this situation surprising well. Intergovernmental collaboration is being found, or at least sought actively, in a number of fields affecting trade.³ There is, of course, the general world forum for economic discussion—the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. But there are also many specific arrangements, some of them providing quite active trade-influencing collaboration.

Some of the more dramatic examples are:

(a) The International Monetary Fund's efforts to remedy the inadequacies of the means of payment available to finance international trade;

(b) The OECD Economic Policy Committee's discussions of the maintenance of the levels of economic activity and employment on which expanded international trade depends;

(c) The FAO (and the world food program) efforts to bring together those unhappy twin offspring of the technological revolution—surplus in the rich countries and underconsumption in the poor;

(d) The International Wheat Council's and other agricultural and mineral commodity bodies' efforts to achieve adequate supply to importers at prices fair to exporters;

(e) The UNCTAD efforts toward trade and financial cooperation to speed economic development in the poorer countries;

(f) The International Labor Organization's efforts to prevent labor exploitation as a basis of trade; and

(g) The GATT procedures dealing with intergovernmental trade problems.

Although governments have no fully agreed rationale in the matter, most significant government actions affecting trade are discussed intergovernmentally; a few are discontinued; many are agreed to (sometimes tacitly) in modified form; some are maintained by concerted action.

OTHER COORDINATION DEVELOPING; MUCH LONG ESTABLISHED IN LESS DRAMATIC FIELDS

In addition to established arrangements for active multilateral intergovernmental collaboration affecting trade, there are a number of areas where less formal consultation takes place. Examples are transportation rates and subsidies and international corporations and business combinations. Mention should also be made of the many fields in which coordination has long proceeded without much public debate.

³ It will be noted, however—and this reflects the conceptual problem in the foreign trade policy field—that most of them either are fields generally considered not to be part of trade policy or are thought of as requiring action only temporarily and exceptionally, until foreign trade policy shall have succeeded sufficiently in its goal of discontinuing government actions affecting foreign trade.