Example Global Trade Summit Speeches, 1875 – Britain

Trade Minister's Speech: Advocating Free Trade for Britain's Industrial Prosperity

Esteemed delegates of the 1875 Global Trade Summit, as Britain's Trade Minister, I propose the continued expansion of free trade policies to bolster our industrial economy and strengthen global commerce. Britain, the workshop of the world, thrives on its ability to export manufactured goods and import raw materials, a system that has driven our prosperity since the Industrial Revolution began. Our policy of free trade, solidified by the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846, has lowered food prices for our workers and opened markets for our textiles and iron goods. This landmark legislation, which removed tariffs on imported grain, reduced living costs, enabling our factories to pay competitive wages and fuel industrial growth.

Our industrial economy depends on three economic sectors: primary, secondary, and tertiary. In the primary sector, we import raw materials like cotton from India and the United States, which our textile mills transform into cloth. The secondary sector, our manufacturing heart, produces over 50% of the world's cotton textiles, as seen in Manchester's booming mills. Free trade ensures these goods reach markets in Europe and beyond, with exports doubling since the Navigation Acts were repealed in 1849, allowing foreign ships to carry our goods more efficiently. Our tertiary sector, including shipping and banking, flourishes as Liverpool's ports handle millions of tons of cargo annually. By removing tariffs and negotiating treaties like the 1860 Cobden-Chevalier Treaty with France, which slashed duties on our textiles, we propose further bilateral agreements to secure raw materials and expand export markets. Free trade strengthens our manufacturing dominance, supports our workers, and drives global prosperity. Let us embrace open markets to build a thriving world economy together.

Global Trade Summit Speeches, 1875 – United States

Trade Minister’s Speech: Protectionism for America’s Industrial Growth

Honorable delegates of the 1875 Global Trade Summit, as the United States’ Trade Minister, I propose a robust protectionist trade policy to nurture our young industrial economy and strengthen our economic sectors. Our nation, rapidly industrializing since the early 19th century, must shield its emerging industries from foreign competition, particularly Britain’s textile and iron dominance. The Tariff Act of 1828, which imposed high duties on imported manufactured goods, has bolstered our textile mills in New England and iron foundries in Pennsylvania, allowing domestic production to flourish. This policy ensures our industries grow without being undercut by cheaper foreign goods.

Our economic sectors—primary, secondary, and tertiary—are the backbone of our progress. In the primary sector, we export vast quantities of cotton from the South, with over 3 million bales shipped annually to Europe, fueling our trade surplus. Our secondary sector, centered in cities like Lowell, Massachusetts, produces textiles and machinery, supported by tariffs that protect these industries from British imports. The Morrill Tariff of 1861 further raised duties, enabling our factories to employ thousands and compete globally. Our tertiary sector, including railroads and banking, expands as our transcontinental railroad, completed in 1869, facilitates trade across our vast nation. I propose maintaining high tariffs on manufactured goods while negotiating agreements to secure markets for our cotton and grain exports. This protectionist stance strengthens our manufacturing base, supports our workers, and positions the United States as an industrial power. Let us build a resilient economy that serves our people and competes on the world stage.