

ALL. PRESIDENT REAGAN ENTERS THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF CANADA AND WITH OUR PRAYERS.

IF PEACE IS VITAL TO ALL MANKIND, A HEALTHY ECONOMY IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAINING AND BUILDING A PEACEFUL WORLD. AND WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH AND PROTECTIONIST WOLVES ARE AT THE DOOR, WE NEED TO REMIND OURSELVES HOW IMPORTANT A STRONG TRADE PERFORMANCE IS TO THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF BOTH OUR NATIONS.

IN THE SPRING OF 1985, AT THEIR HISTORIC SUMMIT IN QUEBEC PRESIDENT REAGAN AND PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY UNDERTOOK A POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO HALT PROTECTIONISM. THEY REAFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE NEW ROUND OF MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND THEY CHARGED THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADE MINISTERS TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLE WAYS TO REDUCE AND ELIMINATE EXISTING BARRIERS IN OUR BILATERAL TRADE.

IN MID-SEPTEMBER, THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, CLAYTON YEUTTER, AND MY COLLEAGUE, JIM KELLEHER, THE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, RECOMMENDED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES EXPLORE THE SCOPE AND NATURE OF THE BROADEST POSSIBLE BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT. AS A RESULT, ON SEPTEMBER 26, PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY ANNOUNCED TO PARLIAMENT THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO PURSUE A NEW TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES.