

Canadians work in industries that directly or indirectly depend on exports. Yet our trade performance should be much better. One of the fundamental thrusts of this government will be to refurbish Canada's stature as a first-class world trader.

We also know that the goal of securing and improving access for Canadian products to foreign markets will not, of course, be achieved without responding to the interests which our trading partners have in equitable access to markets in Canada. Since Canada is the only major industrial country without un-impeded access to a market large enough to permit substantial economies of scale, we understand that.

There is an emerging international consensus in favour of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations under the GATT. These negotiations will provide an opportunity to reduce tariff barriers and to tighten discipline on the use of non-tariff measures. As economic summit partners, Canada and France together will need to examine the preparations necessary for a new round of GATT negotiations, and the opportunities such negotiations might present.

These are the global concerns of Canada's new government. Let me now apply them to our relations with our oldest trading partner, France.

The current state of our economic relationship is not fully satisfactory -- not compared to the strength of our respective economies and the depth of our historical and cultural ties.

Our trade figures have not been particularly encouraging. Our two-way trade is expected to increase by one third in 1984, undoubtedly a reflection of the healthier state of our economies, but it should still fall short of two billion Canadian dollars.

The investment picture is brighter. France is the fourth largest investor in Canada, controlling assets worth six billion dollars. And this is growing. The recently announced investments by Pechiney and AMC/Renault by themselves will boost that figure to eight billion dollars.

Businesses today realize that the expansion of trade patterns are linked to investment. We estimate that the Renault/AMC plant in Brampton, Ontario will in itself generate an extra \$300 million in sales of French goods in Canada. An investment of this magnitude also stimulates related investment in sub-contracting. This process results in job creation, a vital objective in both of our countries.