

agricultural, telecommunications, transportation and other sectors. But we must have access that is at least equal to that of our major competitors.

- Third, as a trading nation, Canada gains real benefits from trade liberalization, whether it is on a bilateral, regional or multilateral basis.
- Mexico obviously feels the same way. Since opening its market in the late 1980s, Mexico's trade and investment have soared. This will help create wealth not only in Mexico, but also among its trading partners. It's important that we participate in this economic revolution from the outset.
- Our decision to enter the trilateral negotiations reflects the confidence that this government has in Canada's ability to compete. And it is one more element in our overall effort to keep Canada competitive; to provide an environment where our enormous potential can be mobilized and maximized.
- By thinking and acting on a North American basis, competitive Canadian companies will be better able to take on global markets and survive increased competition on the domestic market. This heightened level of competition is, of course, a world-wide phenomenon and there is no hiding from it.
- As we did during the Canada-U.S. negotiations, and again with the multilateral trade negotiations, the federal government will rely heavily on consultations with the private sector, provincial governments, academics and other interested parties in formulating our position in the negotiations.
- I would be glad to answer your questions now.