But Canada is not an economic behemoth. We are a middle power, and we will only survive in world markets if we have access to markets, and fair rules to govern trade. We need multilateral solutions to trade issues. And that brings me back to the absolute need for a strong General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and a successful completion of the Uruguay Round.

In the past two weeks, the Round has received a fresh infusion of political will, first with the Ministerial meeting in Canberra on Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), then with the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' meeting, which concluded in Hakone yesterday.

Let me say a few words about the Canberra meeting first. As you probably know, the meeting was initiated by Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke. His aim was to find some way of increasing the level of knowledge, co-operation, and hopefully, consensus among 12 key Asia-Pacific nations -- the 6 ASEAN nations Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand, the United States and Canada.

Why would we go along with the idea, when our countries are so dissimilar? When we are competitors? When we are in the middle of multilateral trade negotiations? And when there is already a network of organizations serving the region?

The answer is simply that all of our countries are deeply affected by the astonishing rise in economic growth and growth in trade across the Pacific. We need to know more about the phenomenon, how we are responding, and how we can co-operate in an effort to maintain the maximum possible level of growth in an environmentally-safe manner.

An important accomplishment in Canberra was the consensus reached on the need for a successful completion of the Uruguay Round.

From Canada's point of view, it was also important that management of marine resources in the Pacific was recognized at the APEC meeting as an important area which could benefit from the co-operation of APEC nations.

Let me turn now to the Quadrilateral meeting of Ministers from Japan, Canada, the United States and the European Community.