

proposals from both the US Congress and pressures from the private sector for trade restrictive measures affecting important Canadian export interests; about new trade disputes between the USA and the EC, between Canada and the USA, and all three experience from time to time trade problems with Japan; and of the search for a better way to apply the rule of law in our trading relationships with newly industrializing countries.

The pressures today are real and it would be a serious mistake to underestimate the seriousness of the situation. The very foundations of the multilateral system built up over 30 years through painstaking negotiations are being eroded and chipped away.

In this difficult environment, the challenge facing the major trading nations in November will be to demonstrate the willingness and capacity to deal with the international trade ramifications of the current economic situation. We need to put to rest the doubts of the skeptics by demonstrating that the major trading nations are prepared to reaffirm their commitment to the multilateral trading system and to demonstrate a willingness to address within the existing framework issues of current concern.

It would be unrealistic to expect that we will be able to resolve all the world's trading problems in November. That is not the purpose of the meeting, nor will it be the result. After Ministers return to their capitals, there will continue to be disagreements between governments with respect to specific issues such as trade in automobiles, steel, textiles, clothing and footwear.

Governments cannot be expected to forego their rights, under the agreed rules, to take action to deal with injurious imports. We should, as a minimum, commit ourselves in November to taking such actions within the agreed rules.

Ministers will not decide in November to launch a major new round of trade negotiations. Rather, the success of the meeting should be measured in terms of whether Ministers can agree to establish a credible and meaningful work programme to address trade issues of concern during the 1980's. More specifically, our priorities for the Ministerial are as follows:

-- Safeguards: If the multilateral system is to remain credible, then governments, when they find it necessary to take restrictive trade actions, must be prepared to act within agreed rules. A high priority in November will be to make substantive progress in dealing with the major