

The positive outcome at the trade negotiation committee in Geneva in April opens the way to advance all the issues to the substantive negotiating phase and to implement the agreements reached in Montreal. The real breakthrough is the negotiating framework for agricultural trade liberalization. This text is intended to lead to the establishment of a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system, with the ground rules applying to all trading countries.

Successful conclusion of the round is the key remaining element of our two track approach to enhance our market access.

Canada has taken a leading role in the international economic community. Not only have we hosted Commonwealth, Francophone and Economic summits, but we also hosted the Montreal conference on the multilateral trade negotiations to give direction and momentum to these vital trade talks. Next week I shall be participating in the OECD ministerial meetings and the quadrilateral ministerial meeting both of which will have as a focus international trade issues. We are committed to ensuring access to world markets for Canadian suppliers.

To meet our national trade strategy objectives of improved competitiveness and of increased, more efficient international marketing efforts, much has been done. The implementation of new programs like the WIN export network, the investment development programme, the technology inflow programme and the science and technology advisors network have significantly increased the flow of market and technology information available to Canadian business.

The strengthening of the trade staff at posts in fast growing markets and the opening of posts in Shanghai, Osaka and all the satellite offices in the U.S.A. have allowed our department to render better services on the ground to our exporters. The establishment of international trade centres in the provincial offices of ISTC now completes the network of trade commissioners around the world, across Canada and within our headquarters operations. Greater funds for government and industry-initiated promotional projects have enabled more potential clients to learn about Canadian capabilities and to take full advantage of our competitiveness.

But the world we live in is in perpetual change and new challenges force us to adjust our approach. The surge in economic power of the Pacific countries or the unstoppable move of Europe toward a unified market by 1992 demonstrates the need for new strategies. We hope to utilize the enhanced competitiveness arising from the FTA to allow our exporters to compete in the global marketplace