

There has been action on all three pillars of our trade strategy. Measures have been taken to regain the confidence of foreign investors and to stimulate the use by Canadian industry of new technology. The government has moved vigorously on two tracks to try to gain freer access for Canadian industry to foreign markets -- in the Canada-U.S. trade negotiations and within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade through the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

From 1984 onwards, the efforts and resources of this Government have been continuously directed at helping Canadian companies make export sales and provide jobs for Canadian workers.

A major effort has been made to try to secure and enhance access to the U.S. market through bilateral negotiations. We have tried hard. We are still trying. There have been difficult phases. We are in the midst of one. Yet some long-term benefit may still emerge from the present impasse.

Whether there is an agreement or not, Canada will always be trading with the U.S. to a greater extent than with any other nation. This Government will continue to provide Canadian exporters with every possible assistance to help them sustain and expand export sales to the U.S. If there is no agreement and the trading environment becomes more hostile, these efforts will have to be pursued even more vigorously.

Yet, trade with the U.S. is not the only game in town.

This Government played a pivotal role in gaining international support for another round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Two years ago, conventional wisdom considered this only a distant and remote possibility; today, the advance party of our negotiating team is at work in Geneva.

We are also pursuing numerous bilateral initiatives to enhance our access to key markets around the world. For example, we have developed strategies for Japan, China and Europe that focus on details such as means to promote timber from housing in Japan or power-systems to China.