

SO DIFFERENT WERE THE INTERESTS OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS, THE POINT OF VIEW OF UNITED STATES AND THE NEEDS OF OTHER INDEPENDENTS, THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CONSENSUS WAS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT. FOR THE WORD TO HAVE GONE FORTH FROM THE GATT MEETINGS WE FAILED TOTALLY, THAT WE FAILED TO HAVE A CONSENSUS, WOULD HAVE DONE GREAT HARM TO THE FUTURE OF MULTI-LATERAL TRADING AND INDEED TO MARKET CONDITIONS ACROSS THE WORLD.

I SOMETIMES THINK THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE MISUNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF OUR SUPPORT AS CANADIANS FOR GATT. SOME MAY THINK, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT WE ARE TAKING A HOPELESSLY IDEALISTIC APPROACH IN DEALING WITH THE VERY TOUGH COMMERCIAL REALITIES FACING THE WORLD TODAY. I DON'T THINK SO. IN THINK, IN FACT, THAT OUR POLICY IS A VERY REALISTIC ONE. WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED AT TIMES TO TAKE PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO SECURE CANADIAN JOBS. BUT GATT HAS ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THAT. IT HAS ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THE NECESSITY OF TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOLLOWING CERTAIN RULES IF THERE IS A TREMENDOUS SURGE IN INCREASE OF IMPORT OF A PARTICULAR PRODUCT THAT THREATENED THE EXISTENCE OF THE DOMESTIC INDUSTRY. WE DO THIS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE AREA OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR IMPORTS AND WITH JAPANESE AUTO IMPORTS. WHAT GATT DOES IS PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK IN WHICH COUNTRIES CAN TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS, BUT ONLY AT THE EXPENSE OF TRADEOFFS IN OTHER AREAS, AND ONLY WITH THE DISCIPLINE SO THAT IT NOT BE DONE ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS TO ANSWER EVERY POLITICAL OUTCRY FOR PROTECTIONISM. BY WORKING TO SUPPORT THIS FRAMEWORK, WHAT WE ARE SEEKING TO DO IS AVOID