

tariffs and export subsidy practices, but also with investment policy, intellectual property, competition policy, and research and development. Even social programs, previously the sole preserve of national governments, are coming under the trade negotiator's microscope or, at the very least, are being reshaped in response to the inexorable pressures of the international marketplace. Just as Canada cannot afford to hide from these increasingly intrusive trade and economic policies, nor can we afford to expose ourselves to the unilateral rule-making of others.

This brings me to the central challenge of Canadian trade and economic policy in the late twentieth century: how to pursue our national interests in a world where economies are not only increasingly integrated but international institutions are struggling to keep up. The answer, I would suggest, lies largely in developing a more independent, more agile and more focused trade agenda based on a strategic assessment of where our economic interests lie.

Although it is beyond the scope of this speech to explain such a policy in detail, let me set forth what I believe should be our three strategic objectives. First, we must begin to target our global economic priorities more clearly. Europe remains a central market for many Canadian exports and an important source of investment capital. We will continue to attend to the transatlantic market carefully. For its part, the U.S. market and the successful management of our trade relations with our neighbour are fundamental to Canada's economic prosperity. Nonetheless, the highest growth rates and most exciting new market opportunities are in the Western Hemisphere, in Latin America, and most especially westward in the Pacific Rim.

How can we secure further access to traditional markets while actively expanding Canada's economic linkages with high-growth markets overseas? For one thing, we intend to promote a quick start to the work of the new World Trade Organization. The WTO is a Canadian proposal that completes the postwar trade and payments system in the best traditions of Canadian foreign policy. We will actively encourage the international community to elaborate more fully a forward-looking work program that reflects Canadian interests as well as the new issues -- especially trade and the environment, and the possibility of replacing anti-dumping regimes with competition policy -- that have arisen through greater global integration. We will also actively encourage means by which the WTO, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund can co-ordinate their efforts to reach mutually reinforcing policy objectives. And we will actively encourage the prompt and meaningful accession of China, Taiwan and Russia to the new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/WTO structure of rights and obligations.