

Canadian businessmen, including those who are here in Japan with me, are making and will make that effort. But they must see the evidence that their efforts will be fairly rewarded.

There is more to the Japanese responsibility. The world is going through a very difficult period. There are heavy pressures on major parts of our economies in many countries. No one should underestimate the seriousness of those pressures. No one should underestimate the risk that governments may see no viable alternative to protective actions that could mount to the point of undermining the basic openness of the world trading system.

Any reader of the Japanese press will be acutely aware of these pressures and dangers and that they are increasing. During my week in Japan, no other subject has been given greater prominence in the daily news. And it is not a danger that can be wished away. To think that these pressures will just disappear would be a serious mistake. However unfair it may seem to Japan and its industry, after having travelled to over 40 countries during the past 20 months, I am totally convinced that a measure of restraint in these difficult times is essential to Japan's longer-term interests.

We in Canada are feeling the pressures acutely. In my conversations with Japanese Ministers and business leaders, I have, of course, indicated that our problems are in no sense to be blamed entirely on others. We have much to do to strengthen the competitiveness of our own industry. But I have also stressed as simply as I can the seriousness of the pressures being felt by our government, as by the governments of other countries. I thought it my responsibility to ensure that all those I met are made plainly aware of the domestic sensitivity of this issue.

All this, of course, is an important backdrop to the meeting of GATT* trade ministers, the first since the Tokyo meeting of 1973, which is scheduled to be held in Geneva, in November of this year. We believe that there is a need to address the means of strengthening the GATT in the current situation, identify gaps and search for solutions.

We hope that this meeting of ministers will provide an opportunity to examine the adequacy of the GATT rules to meet existing problems, to improve and clarify those

* General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade