

protectionism and in making the international trading system work for all of us -- in strengthening world economic growth.

Let me mention here a development which we believe will have a positive impact on the new GATT Round. That is, the recently-completed trade agreement between Canada and the United States. Some of you may be aware of the long and tough negotiations that have led to this historic trade treaty.

The progress we made bilaterally on improving access to each other's markets for both goods and services demonstrates that countries can find solutions to even the most complex trade problems when there is the political will to find those solutions.

As the Canadian Minister responsible for the Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement, I would like to emphasize two points. First, this bilateral trade treaty is fully consistent with the spirit and letter of the GATT. It represents one track of Canada's two-track trade policy to liberalize trade with our GATT partners as well as with our principal trading partner, the United States.

Second, let me assure you that this Agreement ensures the existing access of third countries to the markets of Canada and the U.S. It erects no barriers whatsoever to third countries. The agreement will, over time, make Canada a stronger and more attractive trading partner for Indonesia and the other Pacific rim countries.

In fact, what the Canada-U.S. Agreement demonstrates is Canada's intention to build bridges, not barriers, to economic opportunity.

And where are there more economic opportunities than in the Asia/Pacific region? It is my determination to ensure that Canada will continue to work closely with its ASEAN partners to make the most of these opportunities, to make the potential of our cooperation a reality.

In conclusion, let me say that Canada and Indonesia have moved a long way in the past few years to develop a more dynamic economic relationship. You have my personal assurance that I will be working to ensure that our relationship remains dynamic and progressive in the future.

Thank you.