

the 1992 initiative must also reinvigorate the Uruguay Round negotiations. As a Pacific nation, we are intensifying our efforts in Asia and the Pacific. We are also a nation of the Americas and wish to be a full partner in development with the other countries in our hemisphere.

This was the central theme enunciated by the Prime Minister when he announced some 18 months ago Canada's decision to join the Organization of American States (OAS). That was just the beginning of a process to strengthen our ties throughout Ibero-America. South America and the Caribbean have long been important markets for Canada. Following liberalization measures throughout the region, new opportunities exist that Canadian firms could explore with Spanish companies. Canada and Spain can and should join hands in new partnerships to help bring economic prosperity to Ibero-America.

Having taken the necessary macro-economic measures to position Canada for sustained economic growth, the Government is focusing its attention on our competitive position in the world. We are going to take a hard look at our performance in training our workforce, in education, in research and technology, and in other areas, to ensure that our economic infrastructure is best suited to improving our competitiveness. We are increasing our efforts to identify and eliminate interprovincial barriers to trade. We are considering changes in the tax environment for pension plans to encourage a larger source of capital for equity investments.

We are looking to make fundamental changes in our society, so that enhancing our competitiveness becomes the rationale with which we approach education, training, and a broad range of economic and social policy issues. We will be looking for the co-operation of business, industry and labour.

Increased competitiveness and stronger economic growth are especially important at this moment in Canada's history. A strong economy will strengthen Canadians' belief in themselves. It will rekindle our pride, improve our outlook on the future and give us the confidence to renew our federation.

It was in this spirit of confidence and with a firm belief in the need to foster closer ties with Spain that I signed with Minister Aranzadi today a Joint Declaration on Industrial and Technological Co-operation and Investment. This declaration commits both governments to support public and private sector institutions in both countries as they develop joint initiatives in priority sectors.

Tomorrow, I will be engaging Senor de la Cruz, Secretary of State for Defence, in similar but more detailed discussions on specific opportunities for defence industrial co-operation. As attested by Bristol Aerospace's contract to upgrade Spanish fighter aircraft,