

TRADERS DISCOVERED AND DEVELOPED THE CONTINENT WE SHARE.

HISTORY IS DOMINATED BY TRADE WARS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND DECLINE OF REGIONS.

TRADE HAS DETERMINED THE FUTURE OF NATIONS AND TRADE WILL DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

THAT IS PRECISELY WHY WE INITIATED THESE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES: TO ENHANCE THE LARGEST TWO WAY TRADE IN THE WORLD WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, MAINTAINING OUR ABILITY TO SELF DETERMINATION....TO MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS ON HOW WE WILL LIVE AS CANADIANS.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT GEOGRAPHY MAKES US NEIGHBOURS AND HISTORY MAKES US ALLIES. THAT IS AS TRUE AS IT IS SIMPLE. BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN WE ARE THE SAME.

FOR US IN CANADA, THE INTERDEPENDENCE WITH THE UNITED STATES THAT HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT, BRINGS ENORMOUS BENEFITS IN BOTH ECONOMIC AND SECURITY TERMS.

FOR CANADA, THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE HAS ALWAYS LAIN IN OUR ABILITY TO DECIDE FOR OURSELVES HOW OUR DISTINCT SOCIETY WILL EXIST BESIDE ONE 10 TIMES OUR SIZE.

WE HAVE NOT ENTERED THE FREE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS JUST TO GET THE BEST POSSIBLE ECONOMIC BARGAIN. IF THAT HAD BEEN THE GOAL, WE WOULD HAVE JOINED THE UNITED STATES YEARS AGO.

INSTEAD WE HAVE CONDUCTED THESE NEGOTIATIONS WITH A STRONG SENSE OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SELF-DETERMINATION.

PRIME MINISTER BRIAN MULRONEY GAVE THOSE COMMITMENTS TO THE CANADIAN PEOPLE AT THE VERY OUTSET OF THIS INITIATIVE. THEY WERE WELL DEFINED: