

as it is, I am sure, for my CARICOM colleagues charged with responsibility for their governments' external relations. The Agreement is one between a concerted group of Commonwealth Caribbean States and an independent Canada. It is a successor to the 1925 Agreement which governed our relations for more than half a century. But times have changed. Long gone are the days of "wood, wind and water" in which Canadian timber and fish - - much of it from my own Province of Newfoundland - - were traded for the rum and molasses of the Commonwealth Caribbean. That earlier Agreement served us well: during the past 50 years, varied and solid commercial links have emerged; transportation modes have greatly developed; the movement of peoples has intensified; and despite world war and other international tensions, we continue not simply to share but to build our future on the rich language and heritage we jointly have from the past.

To some extent, what we are signing today is no more than a new and up-to-date framework with which to surround a productive set of exchanges already in place. A good deal of the commercial content provided for by the new Agreement exists. Nevertheless, the Agreement is essentially a forward looking one. It places heavy emphasis upon developing what are real