

policies. Our support for freer trade, therefore, depends in no small way on the recommendations Commissioners develop later in this Report. These recommendations should contribute to strengthening the competitiveness and productivity of Canada's domestic economy. Trade policy alone will not be enough.

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We believe that the approaches we recommend below will help to strengthen our country. They will allow Canadians to pursue the gradual transition from a staple economy to a fully-industrialized modern economy, living in harmony with, but distinct from, our friends and allies.

The Commission presents what might stand as the strongest argument for free trade - and the subtlest. It does not just argue that the benefits outweigh the costs. It goes further, and argues that what have always been counted as dangers will actually prove to be advantages.

One claim against free trade, for example, is that it would tie the Canadian economy even more tightly as client and supplier to the dominant U.S. market. On the contrary, says Macdonald. Free trade would improve productivity, and better productivity would expand Canada's ability to trade with the rest of the world.

Ottawa Citizen, September 7, 1985

RECOMMENDATIONS

Having carefully considered the analyses presented above, Commissioners make the following general recommendations.

- Canadians have benefited from and contributed to the multilateral system of trade and payments developed primarily in the last 40 years, and we should continue to support that system as the main stay of our foreign economic policy. Canada is sufficiently strong and independent, however, to pursue bilateral initiatives, including better economic relations with the United States, within the framework of multilateral relations.