

I was very pleased when Mr. Morohaski, the leader of the Japanese Investment Study Mission, told me that he and his group had discovered a Canada which had taken on the spirit of the Free Trade Agreement, eager to compete not only on a North American basis but also around the world.

That's the spirit the federal government has tried to foster since we took office in 1984.

One of our first acts as a government was to implement a policy which welcomes foreign investment. We introduced deregulation, and returned many Crown corporations to the private sector. We reduced personal and corporate income tax rates. We brought in the Free Trade Agreement, and we took a leadership position in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

Canada depends on exports for fully one-third of its Gross National Product. That ratio is second only to West Germany's, and it's nearly twice as high as Japan's. That's why it is so vitally important for Canada and Canadians to operate in an open market environment.

I visited the Tsukiji fish market last week -- the world's largest. There were vast amounts of every kind of marine life you can imagine, and I was pleased to see a goodly amount of fine Canadian products.

But I know that Canada could have an even greater share of that market. I know there are barriers that stand between our fisheries products and willing consumers. Those are the kinds of barriers that Canada and the other members of the GATT are trying to bring down through the Uruguay Round.

Of course we are sensitive to the vested interests in maintaining the status quo; they are politically powerful.

We are sensitive to the need for gradual phasing in of policy changes because there will be adjustments.

But we are committed to change. We are committed to letting the market place work. We are committed to the ideal of trade liberalization, in Canada and around the world.

Canada is and will remain a competitive force in world markets as we head into the 21st century.