

I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT THE GROUNDWORK HAS BEEN LAID FOR FURTHER PROGRESS ON THE THORNIEST ISSUES IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

AFTER MUCH HARD BARGAINING OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE AMBITIOUS OBJECTIVES SET IN PUNTA DEL ESTE WILL BE ACHIEVED. I SAY THIS BECAUSE I BELIEVE THERE IS A GENERAL RECOGNITION AMONG TRADING NATIONS THAT WE MUST SUCCEED. WE WILL ALL BE THE POORER IF THOSE OBJECTIVES ARE NOT ACHIEVED.

SOME HAVE ACCUSED CANADA OF FOCUSING TOO MUCH ENERGY ON ITS TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US. THE WISDOM OF OUR COMMITMENT TO SECURING AND ENHANCING ACCESS TO OUR MOST VITAL EXPORT MARKET SHOULD BE OBVIOUS. BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS OUR COMMITMENT TO GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE CANADIAN BUSINESS. THAT IS ALSO THE STATED OBJECTIVE BEHIND THE COMPLETION OF THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET. THE EUROPEAN MARKET REMAINS ESSENTIAL FOR US. WESTERN EUROPE ACCOUNTS FOR 36 PERCENT OF CANADA'S NON-U.S. EXPORTS AND, ALONG WITH THE PACIFIC RIM, IS THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF CANADIAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT INITIATIVES OUTSIDE NORTH AMERICA.

WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT EUROPE WILL REMAIN OPEN AND CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW RULES AND DISCIPLINES IN THE URUGUAY ROUND THAT WILL LEAD TO A MORE OPEN, DYNAMIC WORLD ECONOMY.

LOOKING AT THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET, WE DO, HOWEVER, STILL HAVE CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN STANDARDS - SUCH AS THE EURO LUMBER CODE, THE CREATION OF NEW RULES OF ORIGIN AND THE EVENTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECIPROCITY CONCEPT.

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION MUST NOT LEAD TO NEW TRADE BARRIERS. THAT WOULD BE A BLOW TO AN OPEN INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM. EVEN THE THREAT OF NEW BARRIERS COULD HAVE A CHILLING EFFECT ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT AND ON THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. FROM MY MEETINGS BOTH HERE IN LONDON AND IN ROME AND MILAN, I HAVE TAKEN COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT BRITISH AND