INTRODUCTION

- Moderate FTA opponents expressed considerable concern about the impact of a North American Free Trade Agreement on Canada's social programs, most notably, the health care system. There was considerable apprehension about any potential incursions to social programs in Canada, with respondents pointing out that no compromises on such programs as health care could be made in negotiations.
- While some concern was registered about increased trade with low-wage countries, respondents accepted the fact that the substantial majority of imports into Canada came from such sources as the U.S., Japan and the European Community. Virtually all participants conceded that higher quality products would originate from these countries and that quality would be a significant factor in purchase decisions.
- There was little identification of the types of goods that Mexico would export to Canada. Apart from fruit, textiles, and art objects, participants were unable to identify products or services produced in Mexico that they would be interested in purchasing.
- All participants saw opportunities to export Canadians products and services to Mexico. While they expressed concern about Mexico's ability to pay for Canadian goods and services, they saw opportunities to export agricultural products, and, interestingly, high-tech products (such as telecommunication products) and expertise. They recognized that Canada was significantly more advanced than Mexico in a range of areas and sectors allowing for opportunities to sell Canadian expertise.

Many participants also cautioned the Minister/negotiators not to bow to United States. Significant concern was expressed about Canada's natu



A Decima Research Focus Group Report to External Affairs and International Trade Canada

page iii