

Where changes in Canadian law are required to permit us to take advantage of and conform to the new international agreements on non-tariff barriers, legislation will be introduced in time to allow the Government to bring the agreements into force for Canada at the appropriate time. And we shall, of course, be watching closely to see that our trading partners also act, and in timely fashion.

In the post-MTN period the Government is determined to create in Canada an improved climate for investment, production and manufacture and for the marketing of our output, here and in foreign markets. We believe that the reduction and elimination of foreign tariffs, particularly in the United States, will provide new opportunities for the further rationalization and specialization of production in Canada to serve foreign markets as well as our own.

The Canadian economy is already in the process of adaptation to the changing domestic and world environment. There may, of course, be some further problems of adaptation on account of the MTN, but these seem likely to be limited in number given the modest tariff changes which will be involved for our more sensitive industries and the fact that agreed tariff reductions will as a rule be phased in eight equal steps from January 1, 1980 to January 1, 1987. Government adjustment assistance programmes are or will be available in appropriate cases to help firms and workers to adapt to tougher import competition, as well as to take advantage of new export opportunities. The adequacy of existing facilities and of those announced by the previous government last October are being reviewed. The results of this review will be made known in good time to be taken into account in corporate and manpower planning for the future.

As a major trading nation Canada must maintain and improve its relative position in a more and more competitive world. Our trade promotion programmes will be strengthened. We must not only take advantage of each and every export opportunity, but in this and other ways improve our economic performance generally, and not least relative to import competition in the domestic market. My colleagues and I are confident that working together Canadians can take full advantage of the more open and secure world trading environment which is being created. We as a government are determined to give the leadership and provide the framework to facilitate our doing so in full consultation and cooperation with the provincial governments, business, labour, the agricultural and fisheries communities and other interested groups.