

Without their considered input, we run the risk of promoting policies that do not reflect societal consensus. Trade negotiations have become more complicated, more intrusive and more domestic than they have ever been in the past; they will become even more so in the years ahead. If we are serious about framing international rules that will change not only our external trade relations, but the internal ordering of our societies, then we have to ensure that this domestic consensus is achieved through meaningful consultation and cooperation.

But to do this, we in North America must first reaffirm our commitment to open, liberalized trade. We must reject unilateral power and uphold the principles of multilateral rule making, as embodied above all in the new WTO. We must reassert our leadership in the global trading order.

The world is now watching the United States and the way in which Congress implements the Uruguay Round legislation. How this important business is addressed will profoundly influence the way the rest of the world treats the Uruguay Round result and, indeed, the future health of the multilateral trading system.

Shall we together continue to exercise the necessary leadership? And if not, who will? Europe seems preoccupied with its own internal difficulties and suspicious of global competition. In Asia, it is a question of whether certain countries adhere to the principles of market economics, let alone to more open trade. To some extent, the reality of this diverse and interdependent global economy is something with which Canada is more familiar than the United States. Canada, as a middle power reliant on international trade, has had to work hard at developing procedures and institutions that allow the rule of law to prevail over the rule of force. Faced with the realities of diminishing relative economic power and increasing dependence on global trade, it is my sense that this reality is becoming more immediate for the United States as well.