

Canada is, by any definition, a trading nation. Twenty-five cents out of every dollar in circulation in Canada is derived from foreign trade. The viability of the Canadian economy depends upon a working, active world-trading system. The Canadian Government is active in its support for such a system -- it always has been. In the last decade of the nineteenth century, long before Canada had a diplomatic service, Canadian Government trade commissioners were posted abroad to a number of countries to encourage the local consumption of Canadian products and to assist in the marketing, in Canada, of locally-produced goods. Today, supplementing those bilateral efforts, which are still actively pursued, Canada participates in a variety of international forums that seek a more stable and more equitable international economic system. We are active in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; we have a large delegation in Geneva at the Tokyo Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, we have the honour and the responsibility of being one of the two co-chairmen of the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation -- the other co-chairman being Venezuela; we provided, until recently, the chairman of the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund.

Canadians believe that they have some experience, and, they hope, some wisdom and some imagination, that can usefully be brought to bear upon the important issues at stake in these negotiations. We reflect, in a number of instances, conditions and concerns familiar to many nations, developed and developing. Canada is both a producer and consumer of commodities -- both in large volumes. We are a highly-industrialized country, possessing some of the world's most advanced technology (indeed, we are world leaders in a number of areas), yet, at the same time, we continue to be large importers of capital for investment. We have an economy that is in several sectors dominated by giant, foreign-controlled, multinational corporations, while we are, at the same time, the owners of similar enterprises active elsewhere. We are a rich country, yet we face problems of regional economic disparities that have forced us to design massive and sophisticated schemes of revenue-transfers and industrial incentives.

This combination of characteristics contributes to the distinctiveness of Canada that I mentioned a moment ago. But there is an additional characteristic as well, one that has served us well for more than a century. I refer to the blend of co-operation and "complementarity" between business and government -- the private and public sectors -- that has always been evident in Canada, and to a much greater degree than is found, for example, in the United States. This "intermix" of support and understanding has adjusted through

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