

of regional blocs so that we might eventually supersede them. This is why it is important to keep NAFTA's momentum alive. On one front, we are working hard to expand the Agreement to other countries — to widen the circle and to spread the rules....All of this begs a more fundamental question: does the world still have the stomach for trade liberalization? My simple — if not simplistic — answer to this question is that we really have no choice. Trade liberalization is following, as much as leading, underlying economic trends.

Notes for an Address by the Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, to the Economic Strategy Institute, Pacific Basin Economic Council - U.S. 1995 Trade Policy Conference, Washington, D.C., March 29, 1995, 95/22

Distinguished guests and participants, Canada has chosen to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in a spirit of celebration and reflection. Canada is one of the most fervent defenders of this organization and of its strengthening by means of a sweeping reform. The contribution made by the UN in peacekeeping, human rights, the environment, health and other areas rightly deserves our heartfelt gratitude. We also have every reason to be proud of the role played by Canadians, who have earned a reputation as world leaders in several sectors of the UN. Yet we cannot help but observe that the UN, which aroused such optimism not so long ago, has been deeply shaken by the impact of recent conflicts. Does this mean that it should be dismantled? Let us instead demonstrate our ability to learn from history, from the successes and failures that we attribute to the UN (sometimes in unequal proportions) in order to ensure the revitalization of this organization, the only one that is truly universal.... Those who followed the opening of the 49th General Assembly of the United Nations in September 1994 will remember that Canada defined five key priorities designed to restore the reliability and flexibility that the UN needs to respond to the problems of today and tomorrow. Briefly, we proposed: strengthening the UN's prevention capability; conducting an in-depth review of the UN's economic and social activities; strengthening its rapid reaction capability; strengthening the operation of decision-making institutions; and putting the UN on a sound financial basis. We are actively pursuing this agenda.

Notes for an Address by the Honourable André Ouellet, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the First Canadian Conference on UN Reform, Montreal, Quebec, March 24, 1995, 95/21

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