

Mr. Speaker:

A year ago, I rose in this House during the debate that launched the foreign policy review. Today, we conclude the first and most important cycle in what must be an ongoing process of creative adjustment to a trading world always on the move.

Yet, at least one constant remains. A year ago, I began my speech by quoting from Lester Pearson's 1957 Nobel Peace Prize Lecture, in which he wisely focussed on the central role of free trade in achieving the intimately connected objectives of peace and prosperity. Today, one year later, the results of the foreign policy review reaffirm the enduring strength of that vision.

Trade creates growth and jobs.

Trade, investment and technology flows do not comprise a zero-sum game that produces as many or more losers than winners. Rather, trade, investment and technology together comprise a creative, dynamic process that encourages innovation and provides opportunities for those wise enough to seize them.

Trade rules, if carefully crafted, do not detract from sovereignty, but add to it. International trade and investment rules extend abroad the rule of law. Rules inhibit the ability of those countries with the greatest market power to exercise that power unilaterally for their own narrower benefit. Rules provide greater certainty for producers, encouraging greater innovation and longer-term planning, rather than more speculative activity. A rules-based system permits a unified Canada to occupy a central place in shaping the outcome of that system's continuing evolution.

The foreign policy review drew upon the views of many individual Canadians, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and parliamentarians. In the mid-1990s, there is broad recognition that something fundamental has happened to the global economy. Something is different in our global neighbourhood. There is greater consensus on economic fundamentals; greater competition for market share and quality investment; greater interest in freeing markets through rules-based systems, whether regionally or multilaterally; and greater diversity in the partnerships we can and should use in order to shape the rules to reflect Canadian interests.

The foreign policy review identifies two main objectives for Canadian trade policy. First, Canadians expect us to attract long-term investments while eliminating barriers to our exports of goods and services. In this regard, our objective will be to seek the further liberalization of trade in services and the removal of tariffs and non-tariff barriers, on a reciprocal basis, for all manufactured and resource-based products. At the same time, we shall work for further liberalization of trade in