

that these drastic measures, however justified, taken to deal with short-term problems could have a disastrous effect on the long-term freedom of world trade. If this were to happen, all major trading countries, especially Canada and Japan, could stand to lose a great deal.

We have to be careful what we do, therefore, and for this reason the informal meeting of Trade Ministers in Florida, in January, which Minister Abe and I attended, along with our colleagues Ambassador Brock from the United States and Vice-President Haferkamp of the European Community, was both timely and useful. We were able to become more personally acquainted with one another, exchange our perceptions on the realities confronting us and agree that we collectively have a special responsibility to work towards expanded and mutually-beneficial international trade.

We recognize our responsibilities, but I believe that a very special role falls to Japan. Thanks to the skill, imagination and effort of its people, Japan has achieved a position of major importance in the world economy. With that position, that sheer weight in world economic affairs, goes unavoidably a particular responsibility for the continuing health of the open world trading system from which Japan has benefitted so greatly. That responsibility is part of the price of the success of which the Japanese people can justly be so proud. And it is a responsibility that cannot be shirked in Japan's own long-term interest.

Fundamentally, the world needs a strong and open Japanese economy. I recognize, of course, the steps being taken by the Japanese government in that direction. The stimulation of demand in Japan is welcome. It can benefit all of us through its effect on our exports. The earlier announcement of action to liberalize the import system was also important. Of greater importance will be the task of making liberalization broad and effective.

Japan must ensure that competitive foreign suppliers have a full and fair opportunity to serve the Japanese market. However, I am sure you are well aware that there is a great deal of skepticism and even cynicism with respect to the actual opportunities these measures will create.

Equally, as our Japanese friends remind us, our businessmen must be aggressive and persistent in their efforts to enter the market. I can assure you that many