

CANADA BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT A STRENGTHENED, MODERNIZED GATT MUST REMAIN CENTRAL TO AND DOMINATE THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM. THERE ARE NO ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT REGIONAL TRADING ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS OUR RECENTLY CONCLUDED FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES AND YOUR OWN AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA ARE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTORS TO THE MOMENTUM TOWARD WORLD-WIDE TRADE LIBERALIZATION, BUILDING ON ESTABLISHED GATT RULES AND PRINCIPLES. IT IS MY VIEW THAT THAT OBJECTIVE WAS MET IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

IN MEASURING OUR PROGRESS IN THE URUGUAY ROUND, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE NOT LOSE SIGHT THAT THIS IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND EXTENSIVE SET OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS EVER UNDERTAKEN AND THAT WE ARE AT THE MID-POINT IN THE ROUND, NOT ITS END. THE SCOPE IS VAST AND THE AREAS COMPLEX. SIGNIFICANTLY, MORE COUNTRIES ARE INVOLVED THAN IN PREVIOUS ROUNDS. THE NEWLY INDUSTRIALIZED AND MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE. THIS ENSURES THAT WHEN SOLUTIONS ARE ACHIEVED THEY ENJOY BROAD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND CONSENSUS. THE URUGUAY ROUND IS TRULY A GLOBAL ROUND.

YOUR COUNTRY AND OURS SHARE SIMILAR OBJECTIVES IN THE URUGUAY ROUND. OUR COOPERATION IN THE CAIRNS GROUP AND THE URUGUAY ROUND ILLUSTRATES THE VALUABLE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP THAT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED. OUT OF OUR COMMON HISTORY WE HAVE FORGED A RELATIONSHIP THAT TRANSCENDS THE CONFINES OF OUR NARROW NATIONAL INTERESTS. WE HAVE BOTH WORKED CLOSELY TO ENSURE THAT WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

NEXT YEAR YOU WILL BE COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF WAITANGI THAT GAVE BIRTH TO MODERN NEW ZEALAND. CANADIANS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO JOIN YOU. I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS. WE HAVE BEEN INVITED TO SEND YOU SOME OF OUR "LIVING TREASURES" FOR YOUR CELEBRATIONS. PERHAPS YOU CAN CONSIDER ME AS THE FIRST OF CANADA'S "LIVING TREASURES" TO COME YOUR WAY!