

Interdependence: Vulnerability and
Opportunity

Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to deliver the 1987 Per Jacobsson Lecture. The letter of invitation suggested that I might say something about the multilateral trading system so that is what I intend to do. Looking at the list of lectures since 1964, I realized that this was the first time this topic had been the focus of discourse. That omission may be interpreted in many different ways -- which I leave to the audience -- but for me it is another welcome sign of growing awareness of interdependence, the theme of my lecture.

The word interdependence has been overworked in recent years but that is because it captures such an insistent aspect of our reality.

Interdependence has two separate but related aspects: the increasing economic linkage among countries through trade and financial flows and, at the same time a

NOTE: The views expressed in this lecture are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the policies of the Government of Canada.