

CANADA IS A UNIQUELY IMPORTANT PLAYER IN THIS COALITION OF COUNTRIES. WE ARE A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE ECONOMIC SUPERPOWERS.

OUR INTERESTS ARE ALLIED WITH OTHER RESOURCE-BASED PRODUCERS. THIS IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE PIVOTAL ROLE THAT CANADA PLAYED IN PUTTING AGRICULTURE ON THE AGENDA OF THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS STARTED AT PUNTA DEL ESTE, URUGUAY.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE COMMON INTERESTS WITH THE LARGEST TRADING NATIONS. WE ARE A MEMBER OF THE QUADRILATERAL, THE INFORMAL GROUP OF THE LARGEST TRADERS IN THE WORLD, ALONG WITH THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN, AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. WE MET AT SINTRA, PORTUGAL, JUST PRIOR TO THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS IN URUGUAY AND PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN COORDINATING OUR POSITIONS FOR THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS.

THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBTS. WE ARE AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING COMMUNITY AND THERE SHOULD BE NO MISTAKING THIS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE GATT. WE ARE AN ACTIVE, DYNAMIC, AND LEADING PLAYER IN THE GATT AND WE ARE ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT AND TO THE URUGUAY ROUND.

BUT IN REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO THE GATT WE MUST REALIZE THAT IT CAN'T PROTECT ALL OUR INTERESTS. THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR EXPORTS GO TO ONE NATIONAL MARKET, THE U.S. MARKET.

WE ARE ENGAGED IN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR ONLY ONE REASON: IT IS IN CANADA'S INTEREST TO DO SO.

WHAT DO WE SEEK TO ACHIEVE? WE WANT TO REDEFINE THE RULES THAT PRESENTLY GOVERN TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE WANT TO SECURE AND ENHANCE OUR ACCESS TO THE U.S. MARKET, AND WE WANT TO LOCK THOSE RULES AND THAT SECURITY OF ACCESS INTO THE FORM OF A LONG TERM, BINDING TREATY BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES.

LET ME FIRST DISCUSS SECURE ACCESS. THERE IS A THICKET OF U.S. TRADE LAWS AT THE DISPOSAL OF ANY INTEREST WITH THE MONEY TO US THEM. SINCE 1980, WELL OVER 500 COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT. THESE CASES HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AND HAVE SPAWNED AN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF APPEALS.