



# Statements and Speeches

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## TOWARDS THE ENHANCEMENT OF TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES

Statement by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, Kitchener, October 10, 1985.

Canadians have faced critical choices in economic trade policy at many times in the past. The Canadian economy was built on trade, and throughout our history, Canadian jobs have depended on trade. A strong trade performance means a strong economy, and that means an ability to invest in the social and cultural institutions which let us be ourselves as Canadians. We want to keep medicare and our other social programs. We want to keep the instruments and the symbols of our distinct Canadian identity. We want to assert our sovereignty in our North, and in our cultural expression, and in the quality of our life. To do that, we need secure jobs and steady growth. To have jobs and growth, we need trade.

However, in recent years, the international economic environment — the world we trade in — has changed profoundly. It is worth remembering what happened the last time there were profound changes.

Five decades ago the world was in the midst of the Great Depression. Countries everywhere called for protection of their own industries. Restrictive trade policies were followed and they made things worse.

Canada and the United States were the first to act against the strong protectionist pressures of that time. We began, together, the process of tearing down these obstacles to growth; and in 1935 we concluded a bilateral trade agreement.

In 1938, we were joined by other countries. And the principles underlying the Canadian-American bilateral agreement eventually provided the foundation of the postwar multilateral trading system.

For half a century Canada has pursued a policy of trade liberalization. Today more than ever, our prosperity and that of our partners depend on an expanding world trade and a growing world economy.

Trade is critical to our livelihood. Today, almost one-third of what we produce is exported. Few countries in the world are so dependent on trade. For Canada, trade means jobs. Yet our share of world trade has been declining. This trend ultimately threatens the jobs of thousands of Canadians and the living standards of the nation as a whole.

This government was elected to create jobs and growth. As one important step, we have embarked on a campaign to reduce trade barriers around the world and to enhance Canada's access to markets everywhere.

We are pursuing these goals both on the multilateral front with all the countries participating in the

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