

first time in history, protection against harassment by U.S. competitors.

Through that Agreement, we have created a much more rational and equitable environment for trade. Of course, you are the ones who are going to make the Free Trade Agreement work.

You were also concerned about trade in other markets. Again we listened.

The Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and I pressed hard to get the Multilateral Trade Negotiations under the GATT off the ground.

Today, we are fighting for your interests in Geneva. Among other things, we want to:

- enhance market access and make that access more secure;
- improve the rules for agricultural trade;
- define rules for trade in services; and
- strengthen the GATT by improving its surveillance and trade policy role, increasing the involvement of ministers and improving co-operation with other key economic organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

I am pleased to announce that Canada has offered to host the mid-term review of the four year GATT round in Montreal later this year.

Canada will also play host in April to a meeting of the quadrilateral trade ministers -- U.S., Japan, Economic Community and Canada -- here in B.C. in April.

We have also been working hard to improve the international trading environment through other organizations such as The Cairns Group of Agricultural Exporting Countries and the Economic Summit, which will be held in June in Toronto.

The Asia-Pacific Region is a priority for this Government. That is why we have developed specific strategies for key countries such as Japan and China and are developing others.

We have intensified ministerial missions to the region. The Prime Minister visited Japan, Korea and China in 1986. The Governor-General and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, as well as a number of my other colleagues, have recently completed successful visits to key countries in that region.