

even more business representatives are ready to enter into the risks of international commerce here.

Canada features a remarkably open and freely competitive market in a mixed economy of private and public corporations, profit-driven enterprises, trade unions, government industry, research and development linkages, private-property building blocks such as family or individually owned farms and companies, and active stock exchanges. These characteristics are balanced and supported by such safeguards as a social security net, medical and unemployment insurance, public health and education, industry regulations, and redistributive taxation policy. The result is quality, efficiency, high productivity, excellent service, and satisfied customers.

I believe gatherings like this one and the kind of talks I am holding in the U.S.S.R. this week demonstrate our acceptance of the fact that we can significantly advance the internationalization of the Soviet economy by sharing Canadian technology, management skills, marketing philosophy, operating systems, engineering, and procedures on a mutually beneficial basis. The Canadian companies present here are ready to do just that because this means good business for all at a time of sharply reduced international tension -- the "peace dividend" of the 1990s, if you wish.

But why consider Canada as a good business partner? First, there are many similarities which make us very compatible. Our two countries share size, geography, geology, weather, agricultural conditions, resource bases, rugged infrastructural challenges, remote and dispersed communities, coastlines, multiculturalism, a federal political system, and increasingly good bilateral relations. Our fisheries co-operation relationship is second to none. We both have an interest in exploiting economic opportunities in both Europe and Asia. Indeed, Canada and the U.S.S.R. are both Pacific Rim nations. We benefit from a foundation of mutual respect and trust built up over the long and dependable history of our grain trade. Canada and the U.S.S.R. were close allies in the struggle against fascism around the world earlier this century.

Furthermore, it is important to note that every tenth Canadian has his or her ancestral roots in this part of the world, i.e., the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe. Such a historical linkage brings to bear linguistic and cultural strengths, family ties and enhanced inside knowledge, as well as a base for the networking of business connections. Our country's export orientation is certainly not hindered by a common love of ice hockey -- in fact the sport helps us get to know each other better.