

Thank you, Mr. Otley, for that kind introduction and for that great all-Canadian meal -- Alberta beef, B.C. salmon, Quebec maple syrup.

Looking around the room, it's obvious that Canadian business interests in Japan are strong and growing, and I'm glad that the Chamber is providing a rallying point for our trade and commercial interests here.

I am also pleased to see so many familiar faces. It was only a couple of weeks ago that I was talking in Ottawa with some of the members of the Japanese Investment Study Mission who are with us here today, such as Mr. Sugiyama, Mr. Mizuno and Mr. Ohta.

Those of us who are involved in international trade policy are running into each other in venues all around the world, at an accelerating rate, as we enter the final stages of the Uruguay Round.

This is the biggest and most complex set of trade negotiations ever undertaken.

If the current round of multilateral trade negotiations is successful we will have the freest international flow of goods and services and capital in this century perhaps in the history of mankind.

In such an environment, we will have to develop a fine balance between competition and co-operation; between national self-interest and international harmony.

We are motivated by the knowledge that given an improved trading environment, we will be opening the doors for future economic growth. We will be giving men and women a practical tool for expanding their businesses and generating wealth in the economy. We will help allow the entrepreneurial spirit to flourish.

That spirit has become the new status quo in Canada.