OVER 300 OF THEM -- HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE WORK OF THESE GROUPS AND IN THE SEVEN MISSIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. THE NEXT STAGE, ABOUT WHICH I AM OPTIMISTIC, WILL BE THE TRANSLATION OF THESE EXPLORATORY ACTIVITIES INTO SPECIFIC SALES, LICENSING AGREEMENTS AND JOINT VENTURES BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LAST TWO YEARS SHOW THAT THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE.

ARE WE UP TO TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEM?

A LESS STRUCTURED FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED WITH JAPAN IN LATE 1976. THE FIRST MEETING OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITHIN THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WAS HELD IN JUNE, 1977, AND THE NEXT IS SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS MONTH.

IT IS FAR TOO EARLY TO MAKE DEFINITIVE ASSESSMENTS OF THE UTILITY OF THIS COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK APPROACH; HOWEVER, CANADIAN BUSINESS APPEARS TO HAVE RESPONDED WELL AS WITNESSED BY THE GROWING NUMBER OF BUSINESS MISSIONS TO JAPAN AND THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CAMADA-JAPAN BUSINESSMEN'S CONFERENCE