

States might affect our trading relations elsewhere -- and your business in particular.

So let me reassure you. Nothing we do with the United States will impinge on our trade with the rest of the world. We are intent on enhancing our business relations with all of our trading partners -- in Europe, the Pacific Rim, the Third World, the Middle East, the works -- and we are working actively to do so.

You will shortly be hearing from Vic Lotto, who will expand on some of my trading house themes and tell you about our present initiatives in export market development. Vic will also talk about a special project to investigate both sourcing and information problems relating to international marketing.

I have no intention of pre-empting this afternoon's program, but I can tell you that all the participants on the agenda have made a concerted effort to address the Task Force's recommendations as effectively as possible within a very limited time. Recommendations dealing with our government financing facilities, with our foreign aid procurements, with our regional offices here in Canada - all have been examined and acted upon. I am sure that when you hear this afternoon's presentations you will be as impressed as I am.

I am very encouraged by the overall positive response to the Task Force recommendations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those whose efforts made this such a successful conference. I know that all the recommendations will not be addressed to your entire satisfaction today. However, I look at this conference, and I hope that you do too, as the beginning of a long term close working relationship between government and the trading house sector to resolve the problems of today and tomorrow. If the same spirit of cooperation that I see here today is carried into the future, we cannot help but be successful.

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