

of President Delors and Commissioner Andriessen at a similar Canada-E.C. Ministerial Meeting in Ottawa.

During the past year, I have also been working to increase our links at the political level in member states. Since January of 1988, I have travelled to 5 different European countries, the U.K., France, Italy, Germany and Spain. I co-chaired the first session of the joint Canada-Italy working group in Rome, as well as the Canada-France commission in Paris. I intend to continue to raise the flag.

But the primary framework for our dialogue with the EC remains the GATT. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade remains the most effective constraint we have on the behaviour of large powers like the Community and Japan. For middle power trading nations like ourselves, a functioning GATT is essential. And it will be increasingly important as the Community's external policies are modified by these internal market reforms. It is just one more reason why the current Uruguay Round of negotiations is of such importance to Canada.

Our third initiative, the "European Trade and Investment Development Strategy", reflects today's reality that international competition is no longer measured solely by trade and exports.

To gain access to foreign markets, and the full benefits of 1992, companies will increasingly need a visible and enduring presence secured through direct investment, corporate alliances and strategic partnerships.

One aspect of the program, is concerned with joint ventures, technology transfers and the promotion of industrial cooperation between Canadian and European firms. Our objective is to identify well established Canadian companies interested in developing such relationships.

Technology acquisition will also continue to be of importance to Canada. Through the Technology Inflow Program -T.I.P.- we are supporting the travel costs of firms like Microtel here in Burnaby seeking potential sources of technology. We expect, too, that the number of Technology Development Officers in Europe will be expanded. Focused activities will include up to ten incoming and outgoing technology missions in targeted sectors and five studies of European niche technology in sectors of interest to Canadian firms.

Incremental funding will also be added to the Investment Development Program to encourage an expansion of productive investment flows from Western Europe. Four full time investment counsellors are already located there to encourage such