

\* Finally, we wished to make sure that Canada would continue to attract investors interested in the North American market. This we also achieved.

We therefore fulfilled our three main objectives.

Like the FTA, the NAFTA has attracted worldwide attention. Foreign observers, impressed with Canada's ability to guarantee access to the American market through the FTA, are now taking note of the innovation of the NAFTA, whereby a mutually beneficial partnership has been formed between two industrialized countries and a developing nation.

The magazine *Les Affaires* recently wrote that by unlocking the door to the Mexican market, North American free trade was offering Quebec companies a fabulous opportunity to grow. I agree. The NAFTA is also a solid advantage to Canada as a whole.

For Quebec in particular, the Agreement immediately does away with Mexican customs duty on the province's main exports, such as certain types of newsprint, coated and uncoated paper, chemically treated wood pulp, construction lumber, aircraft, commuter train rolling stock, medical products and various types of industrial equipment.

The large Quebec auto industry will also benefit from clearer, more precise rules of origin, in particular in calculating North American content in cars and car parts. But the Canada-U.S. pact remains unchanged.

Increased quotas for textiles and clothing will give Canadian exporters special access to the U.S. market in products that do not meet the new rules of origin.

Intellectual property, especially in pharmaceuticals, is also a subject of detailed provisions in the NAFTA. These provisions conform to Canada's recent decision to extend patent protection, and to the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Other benefits afforded by the NAFTA include better access to the dynamic Mexican market for financial institutions and for professional services. These include management, engineering, accounting, data processing, legal services and trucking. The accord also gives better access to Mexico for agricultural products, including pork and processed foods. And maple syrup, that Québécois trademark, will be flowing freely to Mexico when