

YOU KNOW, THE MOST IMPORTANT STATISTIC IN TALKING TODAY, AS YOU ARE, ABOUT AFRICAN TRADE, IS THE FACT THAT THE AMOUNT OF CANADIAN EXPORTS FOR THAT CONTINENT HAS TRIPLED IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS. THAT IS THE ANSWER TO THOSE WHO SAY "HOW CAN WE GET THE FINANCING?", TO THOSE WHO SAY "HOW WILL THEY BE ABLE TO PAY WITH THEIR ECONOMIES THE WAY THEY ARE?". I DON'T MEAN TO BRUSH THOSE DIFFICULTIES ASIDE, BUT I THINK THAT THE MARKET IS THERE, THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE, AND IN THE SAME WAY THAT GROWTH HAS OCCURRED OVER THOSE 5 YEARS, THERE ARE A HOST OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TODAY.

YOU'VE HAD A NUMBER OF EXCELLENT PRESENTATIONS ALREADY ON THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF TRADE WITH AFRICAN NATIONS. MY OFFICIALS WILL BE GIVING YOU MORE INFORMATION OF THE TYPE OF ASSISTANCE WHICH GOVERNMENT CAN GIVE TO BUSINESS IN DEVELOPING AND KEEPING MARKET IN AFRICA. WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO FOR A FEW MOMENTS IS TO SPEAK BRIEFLY ABOUT TRADE WITH AFRICA AND WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES GENERALLY IN THE LARGER CONTEXT OF CURRENT TENSION WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM.

ALL OF YOU REALIZE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM, WHICH IN THE POST WORLD WAR II PERIOD HAS BEEN BUILT UP AROUND THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE, IS UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE. MIND YOU, THE AMOUNT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE THAT OCCURRED IN THE YEARS THAT GATT HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE HAS PHENOMINALLY MULTIPLIED. I SHOULD POINT OUT AS WELL THAT A LARGE PART OF THE GROWTH IN THE STANDARD