

these comprehensive worldwide trade talks over these next several weeks. All of us participating in the talks will have to show flexibility to get an agreement that will be in our collective and respective national interests. I can think of no other country that stands to gain more than Japan from a successful Uruguay Round -- or one that will lose more should it fail. Much of Japan's post-war economic success has been built on an open, rules-based multilateral trading system. The next few weeks could be the critical period we have been waiting for, the chance to bring the world's trade system more in line with today's realities. We must go for it now, with courage, boldness and vision. I hope that the newly installed government of Japan shares my hopes and this cautious optimism.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without also stressing the important role each and every one of you can play to help create the momentum, and the dynamic, for a comprehensive MTN result. A major GATT outcome is needed to keep pace with the dramatic political and economic developments around the world. And you, the business community, have an important role in encouraging and supporting governments to develop the appropriate policy framework that keeps pace with economic realities. The future of your companies is at stake. Use whatever networks you have to ensure the right balance is given to these talks. True, agriculture is the stumbling block. It is difficult for all of us. But let us not lose sight of the strides we can also make in services, in improving market access for industrial products, and in strengthening the rules of the game for all sectors.

Canada has already achieved a major success in the conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States. The Agreement has been in place for almost three years; it is working well and Canadian companies are finding that they can compete in the United States successfully.

Our negotiations with Mexico and the United States to create a North American free trade area represent an extension of this emphasis on open markets and a global reach. Although we pursue one international trade policy agenda in different forums, and with different partners, there is a consistent thread running through our FTA with the United States, our relentless efforts to secure a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round, our negotiation of a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and our determination to build our trade and investment relations with Japan and our other partners in the Pacific Rim. In all cases, the goal is sustainable growth and opportunity; in all cases, the method of choice is liberalized access for goods, services and investment for the benefits of all concerned. The NAFTA will be trade- and investment-creating -- let me repeat, it will reduce or eliminate barriers within a North American free trade area without erecting any new barriers to outside countries.