



caveats must be emphasized: there is no risk-free option, including the status quo, and no amount of analysis or consultation will provide guaranteed assurances in advance.

The government, accordingly, seeks information, views and perceptions from the private sector generally and from individual firms on:

- which approach for Canada-US trade relations would most efficaciously deal with the main barriers to market access in the United States;
- the impact of alternative approaches on firms and sectors in terms of production, exports and employment if such market access barriers were reduced or eliminated;
- the impact on firms and sectors in terms of production, exports and employment if Canadian barriers to US exports were reduced or eliminated;
- the implications for investment and technology in particular sectors in any arrangement for reduction and elimination of trade barriers;
- the major benefits and adjustment costs on specific sectors and regions arising from various options;
- the implications for Canadian trade objectives in other markets if new trade arrangements were concluded with the United States.

Some Canadians may contend that a formal trade arrangement with the United States will diminish our political and cultural sovereignty and narrow our manoeuvring room economically. Others may contend that the interdependence of the two economies is already so advanced that the absence of formal bilateral arrangements impedes development of a more competitive economy and erodes our capacity to pursue Canadian development and to exercise influence internationally. The Prime Minister gave assurance in his September 26 statement that Canada's political sovereignty, system of social programs, commitment to fight regional disparities, and unique cultural identity and special linguistic character will not be at issue in negotiations with the United States.

Although the September 26 statement by the Prime Minister took this important question a major step forward, the process of negotiating a new Canada-United States trade arrangement will doubtless be a protracted one. Accordingly Canadians will have ample opportunity to express their views further on this most important topic.

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Table 6
1984 Major Canadian Imports from the United States

Rank	Items	Value in \$000,000	% of imports of US origin
1.	Automotive Products	\$22,939	86.7%
2.	Chemicals	4,071	78.1%
3.	Computers	3,752	91.4%
4.	Agriculture & Food	3,178	53.8%
5.	Industrial Machinery	2,878	71.9%
	Total	68,450	71.5%