

I am very happy to be here today because this is the kind of opportunity that I welcome....An opportunity to speak to a group of Canadians who represent the future of this country.

Our government has been doing a lot of talking about the future recently. Canada's future. The future of all of us...and the kind of future we are trying to build for people like yourselves who will soon be entering the work force.

We have been trying to ensure that future will include the kind of opportunities that mean employment, prosperity and security.

That really is what free trade is all about.

That is why we sought and achieved a free trade agreement with the United States.

Canada is an exporting country.

Two million of us are directly dependent on our export trade for our jobs.

And no less than 78 per cent of all that export trade is with the United States.

That's why we set out -- not just to protect that market -- but to open it still further.

Nothing could be more important to the future of this country.

If U.S. legislators and Parliament approve the agreement it will go into effect on January 1, 1989.

In a nutshell, here's what Canada and the U.S. negotiators have agreed to:

- Phase out all tariffs between us within 10 years.
- Set innovative rules for trade in services.
- Provide secure access for each country's investors.
- Expand opportunities to compete for government purchases in each other's countries.
- Strengthen automotive industries on both sides of the border -- not only by reaffirming our commitment to the auto pact -- but also by expanding its application; and