

Canadians are impressed by the changes which are taking place in Europe and by the important role the Netherlands is playing in bringing these changes about. The Netherlands is an important interlocutor on a broad range of economic, commercial and related issues of mutual interest. It is a strong moderating voice in the European Community, arguing against increased subsidies and protectionism, and supporting a positive EC stand in the Uruguay Round and an integrated Europe open to third country trade. With the Netherlands preparing to assume the presidency of the Community during the second half of 1991, our countries will be working even more closely together ... especially given the transatlantic declaration which Canada and the Community signed this past November.

Canada has taken a positive approach to Europe 1992. The EC is our second biggest export market after the United States. It is a crucial source of foreign investment in our country. In 1990, Europeans invested \$30 billion in Canada and Canadians invested over half that amount in Europe -- about \$18 billion with less than 10 per cent of the population. As an economic partner of Europe, we see the 1992 program leading to a larger, stronger, more dynamic market which will present increased opportunities for Canadian exporters.

As part of our Going Global program, our government has taken concrete measures to encourage Canadian business and industry to take advantage of the new opportunities in Europe. We have published an extensive series of studies on the implications of 1992 for sectors of the Canadian economy. We have held a series of conferences and seminars across Canada, with European speakers, to make sure Canadians are aware of 1992 developments. We have sponsored numerous trade missions to EC countries, and facilitated the participation of Canadian businesses in trade fairs across Europe. We have placed a special emphasis on encouraging joint ventures between Canadian and EC companies.

For example, in April, in Amsterdam, we sponsored Canada-Netherlands Marketplace 91. We introduced 39 new Canadian companies to the Netherlands. Companies specializing in computer hardware and software, microelectronics, instrumentation and telecommunications were matched with Dutch counterparts in a series of one-on-one appointments. One-hundred-and-ninety Dutch companies participated. We predict that this project will produce meaningful business in the near future.

The spirit of trade liberalization which has inspired the 1992 initiative must also reinvigorate the Uruguay Round negotiations. With the extension of fast-track negotiating authority in the United States, the way is now clear to complete the negotiations.

Canada's objectives for the Uruguay Round remain as they have been since the outset of negotiations. We seek to turn back the