

CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN USING THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO PREVENT A RETURN TO THE DESTRUCTIVE BEGGAR-THY-NEIGHBOUR POLICIES OF THE 1930'S.

I NEED NOT REMIND THIS AUDIENCE THAT THE THREAT OF A RETURN TO SUCH POLICIES IS REAL -- ALL AROUND US WE ARE WITNESSING THE REBIRTH OF MERCANTILISM AND HEAR THE DRUMBEAT OF PROTECTIONISM.

BUT IN TODAY'S CIRCUMSTANCES, GATT IS NOT ENOUGH. NOT FOR CANADA AND NOT FOR THE UNITED STATES. GATT HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS. THERE ARE NOW MANY MORE PLAYERS. MOST OF THEM ALREADY HAVE FREE-TRADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THEIR NEIGHBOURS. CANADA DOESN'T. NEITHER DOES THE UNITED STATES.

THE PACE AT GATT IS SLOWER. THE ISSUES MORE COMPLEX. THE RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS LESS SATISFACTORY. IT WILL BE A WHILE BEFORE THE CURRENT ROUND BEARS FRUIT. EVEN THE OPTIMISTS TALK ABOUT FOUR YEARS OR MORE FOR THE URUGUAY ROUND. WE ARE BOTH WORKING HARD TO ADVANCE THE PACE, PARTICULARLY IN THE SEVERELY TROUBLED AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

WE ARE, THEREFORE, JOINTLY PURSUING NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT A COMPREHENSIVE BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT, AN AGREEMENT FULLY CONSISTENT WITH OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER GATT.

WE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE DEEPER AND BROADER REDUCTIONS TO TRADE BARRIERS. THIS WILL CREATE A MORE OPEN AND SECURE ACCESS FOR TRADE. THIS WE CAN DO MUCH SOONER THAN IN THE MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE GATT.