

AS YOU PROBABLY WILL HAVE HEARD, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED ME TO SERVE THE NEW GOVERNMENT ONCE AGAIN AS MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE. INCLUDED IN MONDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF 2 NEW CABINET COMMITTEES. ONE DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, THE OTHER, AN EXPENDITURE REVIEW COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND WILL REVIEW ALL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE PLANS. ENVIRONMENT AND DEFICIT REDUCTION WILL BE PROMINENT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S AGENDA IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

MANY CHALLENGES LIE AHEAD FOR CANADA AND OTHER MAJOR TRADING NATIONS. MOST IMMEDIATELY, ACHIEVING BUDGET DEFICIT REDUCTIONS IS A PRIORITY FOR SEVERAL LARGE TRADING NATIONS. EQUALLY THE PROBLEM OF LARGE SURPLUSES IN TRADING ACCOUNTS OF SOME OF OUR PARTNERS CANNOT BE IGNORED. ALSO, DEALING WITH THE DEBT PROBLEM OF MIDDLE-INCOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND REACHING A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME IN THE ONGOING GATT ROUND - PARTICULARLY IN AGRICULTURE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WILL REQUIRE CONTINUED COORDINATION AND COOPERATION AMONG ALL MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS.

GATT HAS A MOST IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING AN OPEN INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM. CANADA'S OBJECTIVES FOR THE URUGUAY ROUND ARE SHARED WITH OUR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS. THEY ARE:

- TO IMPROVE ACCESS BY REDUCING OR ELIMINATING TARIFFS AND NON-TARIFFS;
- TO ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE RULES FOR AGRICULTURAL TRADE, INCLUDING THE REDUCTION OF EXPORT SUBSIDIES;
- TO DEVELOP RULES FOR IMPORTANT AREAS OF TRADE NOT NOW COVERED BY THE GATT, INCLUDING SERVICES, TRADE-RELATED INVESTMENT AND TRADE-RELATED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY;
- TO IMPROVE EXISTING RULES ON SUBSIDIES AND THE USE OF COUNTERVAILING DUTY AND SAFEGUARDS ACTION; AND