

6. WE WILL LOOK AS WELL TO ACTION PROVIDING BETTER ACCESS GENERALLY FOR FURTHER PROCESSED RESOURCE PRODUCTS. THIS IS A MAJOR AREA IN TERMS OF OUR CURRENT TRADE PROFILE. IT IS ALSO A SECTOR WITH THE HIGHEST POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEXT DECADE. OUR CONCERNS REGARDING BARRIERS TO TRADE IN FISHERIES PRODUCTS WILL ALSO BE REGISTERED.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE ISSUES WE WILL BE GRAPPLING WITH AS WE WORK TOWARDS THE GATT MINISTERIAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER. AT THAT MEETING THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE GATT SHOULD RECONFIRM THEIR FAITH IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM AND THEIR WILL TO MAKE IT WORK EFFECTIVELY. HOWEVER, IF THE MEETING IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, IT MUST GO BEYOND MERE POLITICAL RHETORIC. MINISTERS MUST BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE TO THEIR RESPECTIVE PUBLICS THAT REAL PROGRESS CAN BE MADE ON THE IMPORTANT TRADE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE WORLD COMMUNITY. ABOVE ALL, WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE SYSTEM IS RELEVANT TO CURRENT CONCERNS AND CAN RESPOND TO CONSTRAINTS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CANADA.

APPROACH TO THE GATT MINISTERIAL BY OTHER COUNTRIES

OTHER COUNTRIES WILL, OF COURSE, ALSO HAVE THEIR OWN LIST OF ITEMS THEY WILL WISH TO SEE ADDRESSED IN THE WORK PROGRAMME AND AT THE MEETING ITSELF. THE UNITED STATES HAS COME FORWARD WITH SEVERAL PROPOSALS FOR TAKING THE GATT INTO NEW AREAS OF ACTIVITY. SPECIFICALLY, THEY HAVE IDENTIFIED INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES, TRADE-RELATED INVESTMENT ISSUES AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY AS AREAS IN WHICH THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE GATT UNDERTAKE A STUDY PROGRAMME. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING PARTICULAR CANADIAN INTERESTS IN THESE AREAS.

REGARDING SERVICES, FOR EXAMPLE, AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL TASK FORCE WAS ESTABLISHED ABOUT A YEAR AGO AND HAS CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PROVINCES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. I EXPECT THAT WE WILL BE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH AMERICAN PROPOSALS TO STUDY PROBLEMS RELATING TO TRADE IN SERVICES IN THE GATT.

AS FOR THE AMERICAN PROPOSALS REGARDING TRADE-RELATED INVESTMENT MATTERS, WE HAVE SAID THAT SUCH A PROGRAMME OF STUDY WOULD BE UNBALANCED UNLESS IT WERE TO ADDRESS AT THE SAME TIME THE BEHAVIOUR OF MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES.

IN TRADE IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY GOODS, CANADA, ALONG WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, IS INTERESTED TO EXAMINE CLOSELY THE NATURE OF THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER AND HOW THIS PROBLEM MIGHT BE ADDRESSED IN THE CONTEXT OF GATT.