

change, because it brings Canadians into the decision-making process on decisions that affect their lives.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: The talks were not easy, but nothing that is worth while ever is.

The initiative was not undertaken from dusk of one day to dawn of the next. While the final elements of the agreement came together only at the eleventh hour, the general framework of the agreement is the result of three years of very hard work.

We have been at this since November, 1984, when my colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) presented the Government's strategy paper entitled *A New Direction for Canada*; since January, 1985, when we put out a Green Paper on securing and enhancing export markets; since March, 1985, at the Quebec Summit, where President Reagan and I made our declaration on trade in goods and services; since September 26, 1985, when I informed this House of the parameters and the philosophy of our initiative. Since November, 1985, Canada's most experienced international negotiator, Ambassador Simon Reisman, has been heading the Canadian effort.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: Since June, 1986, Ambassador Reisman and his colleagues have been at the table with their American counterparts. This has been a most demanding and challenging experience.

Mr. Reisman has once again rendered great service to his country. He and his colleagues in the trade negotiations, including Ambassador Ritchie, who is in the House today with Ambassador Reisman, and their colleagues, have all lent a new and impressive dimension to the expression of public service. I know that all Members of the House of Commons, irrespective of Party, will wish to convey warm congratulations to Ambassador Reisman and his colleagues.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: I want very much, and in a very special way, to underline the principle and indispensable role played in these successful negotiations by the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney).

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1120)

Mr. Mulroney: May I point out as well, with the indulgence of my colleagues in the House who have witnessed this for the last two years, the most significant contributions of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark), the Minister of Finance, and my own chief of staff, Derek Burney, in bringing these arduous negotiations to a very successful conclusion.

Statements by Ministers

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: With challenge, attack, criticism, and the uncertainty that great initiatives bring, for 16 months our team stayed with it. They left no avenue unexplored in their efforts to obtain a good deal for Canada. At all times they were mindful of the firm but direct instructions of this Government and of this Prime Minister—it had to be a good deal or there would be no deal.

This is a good deal, a good deal for Canada and a deal that is good for all Canadians. It is also a fair deal, which means that it brings benefits and progress to our partner, the United States of America. When both countries prosper, our democracies are strengthened and leadership has been provided to our trading partners around the world. I think this initiative represents enlightened leadership to the trading partners about what can be accomplished when we determine that we are going to strike down protectionism, move toward liberalized trade, and generate new prosperity for all our people.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, this Agreement will expand our access to the world's largest, richest and most dynamic markets. The result will be an increase in productivity, research and development, a significant improvement in our competitive position and enhanced product quality. The result will be lasting jobs and sustained prosperity. I believe certain components of the Agreement will set an important example for the multilateral negotiations being conducted in Geneva, where Canada and the other 91 GATT members are trying to lower barriers to international trade and enter a new phase in the liberalization of international trade.

[*English*]

Canada and the United States will apply the same vision to the MTN Round. This new arrangement will bring us to a new decade and a new century, on the leading edge of the world's trade and commerce. So this nation, founded by explorers and developed by traders, begins another phase in our national evolution.

Several hurdles remain before implementation, including of course the approval of Congress, but this is a major step toward implementation of an accord that will be fair and beneficial for all regions of Canada.

We go forward with confidence in our future, confidence in our country, and, most of all, confidence in the youth of Canada. We have set a course for a stronger, a more united, and a more prosperous Canada. It is not a path—it never was and it never will be—for the faint of heart, but this country was not built by timid souls. This is a path for the daring, the innovative, and the nation-builders who are now called upon to make a firm decision on behalf of a strong, united, and prosperous Canada.

For those who follow this path, we share the intrepid spirit of the pioneer generations, and hopefully it will be said of all