

Much criticism has been recently levelled at both the City of New York and Canada concerning the sale of Bombardier subway cars for that city's mass rapid transit system. The City of New York, bargaining in good faith, was attempting to obtain the best equipment possible and at terms which would be the most favourable to its citizens. We in Canada felt that not only was the product offered by Canada the best available but that the employment which would be generated in Canada and the United States was a decided advantage. Only when it became apparent that in order to ensure a comparable opportunity for the Canadian supplier and in order to meet foreign competition, did the Canadian Government offer its assistance and in that instance not to beat but to meet the competition. Canada has not taken the lead in this contract but has been in the lead as you may know in working toward an international consensus limiting predatory concessional financing.

It has been and will be Canadian policy to abide by the rules. However, we cannot continue to watch idly when contracts on which Canadian companies with quality products are bidding are in danger of being lost because of the intervention of competing governments.

I have previously mentioned our commitment to fair trade and I will repeat that Canada is indeed committed to such a policy. However, our great dependence on trade to stimulate our domestic growth obliges us to ensure that our exporters receive the necessary support from their government when they face challenges in the export marketplace which are beyond the scope of normal competitive practices.

I remain convinced that trade can be the engine of growth, that expanded trade opportunities provide a firm basis for new investment and more jobs. I would like to think that many of you share this view and attach priority to the maintenance and strengthening of an open trading environment.

I believe that Canada's potential and its future is unequalled anywhere. But potential is empty unless we nurture the conditions necessary to its realization. Political stability, private enterprise, energy development, domestic and foreign investment, technological capability, fair and equitable trade between nations - in each area Canada is dedicated to maintaining the conditions where these will expand and prosper.

Canada and the U.S. cannot be expected always to agree on the value of each others' policies. We can count on you to let us know when you are concerned, and I can assure you we will do the same for you when we have concerns. But this is the measure of the success and significance of our relationship and of a partnership which is without equal between nations anywhere in the world.