

But this agreement is not a radical departure from the past. It builds on fifty years or more experience in Canada and around the world in cutting barriers to trade and investment. And that experience has been uniformly positive.

It builds on previous trade agreements between the United States and Canada dating back to 1935, including the Auto Pact, the Defence Production Sharing Arrangements, the Air Agreement and others. We borrowed from the work of the International Joint Commission.

And it builds on our commitments to each other under the GATT, the OECD, the International Energy Agreement and more. The habit of cooperation between Canada and the United States is not new.

But we knew we could do better. Both governments believed we could achieve even more open and secure access to each other's markets. The government sought to give Canadian manufacturers secure access to a market of some 250 million so that they could plan and invest with confidence. And we achieved those goals.

In the final analysis, the trade agreement is good for all Canadians because it is the product of extensive consultations with Canadians.

Some of the milestones of these consultations include:

- 1) the hearings of this Committee several years ago;
- 2) the consultations of my predecessor Jim Kelleher during the spring and summer of 1985;
- 3) the hearings of the Special Joint House-Senate Committee reviewing the green paper on foreign policy during the summer of 1985;
- 4) the hearings of the Macdonald Royal Commission;
- 5) the close work of the TNO with the private sector (ITAC/SAGITS) and the provinces (CCTN/FMMs) and
- 6) the hearings conducted by provincial legislatures, both before and after October 4, as well as the current hearings of the House and Senate Committees.