

that the Government would not enter an agreement unless we are satisfied that improved access to the U.S. market were as secure as possible.

In the particular context of this Conference, I have inevitably concentrated on the United States. But sectoral trade liberalization with the United States must not distract us from the task of improving our links with our other trade partners and of promoting trade into those markets which absorb the remaining 30% of our exports. We will need to ensure that the EEC and Japan and our other partners understand what we are doing; that we will not impair their vital trading interests in Canada; that we are fully prepared to explore further trade liberalization and industrial cooperation with them; and that we will as necessary reconcile any bilateral arrangements with the United States with our GATT obligations. It would, however, be premature to address this GATT issue in the abstract. It is one which we may face when we get down to negotiating.

The multilateral trading system embodied in the GATT remains the foundation of Canadian trade policy. The Trade Policy Review referred to the strong Canadian interest in strengthening the multilateral system. This