

OF COURSE, THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE BROUGHT TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION, THAT THE FORCES OF RESTRICTION AND PROTECTION WERE CONTAINED, AND THAT A BREAKDOWN OF THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM WAS AVOIDED. BUT THIS WAS NOT THE LIMIT OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS - GENUINE ADVANCES WERE ALSO REGISTERED IN TERMS OF THE FURTHER LIBERALIZATION OF BOTH TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS AND, IN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT AREAS, NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN AND GOOD BEGINNINGS MADE.

IN ESSENCE, HOWEVER, THE ISSUE IS NOT THE SUPERFICIAL DEBATE BETWEEN PROTECTIONISTS AND FREE TRADERS. WHAT IS AT STAKE IS HOW CANADA CAN MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 1980'S. WE ARE FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF A TOUGH, INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT. THIS IS NOT A CONSEQUENCE OF THE MTN, IT IS THE NATURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT. I BELIEVE THAT THE MTN OUTCOME CAN SUBSTANTIALLY HELP CANADA IN MEETING THESE CHALLENGES BOTH IN TERMS OF DEVELOPING COMPETITIVE EXPORTS AND MEETING IMPORT COMPETITION AT HOME.

IN MY VIEW, THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE MTN CANNOT BE JUDGED ON WHETHER CANADA OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY WAS OR WAS NOT ABLE TO SECURE 100 PERCENT OF ITS OBJECTIVES, NOR ON WHETHER ALL THE COMMERCIAL POLICY ILLS OF THE WORLD COULD BE CURED AT ONE STROKE, NOR WHETHER ALL THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL ADJUSTMENT COULD BE ACCOMMODATED. RATHER, I THINK THAT THE TOUCHSTONE SHOULD