

for possible co-operation in the minerals and metals area. The proposal prejudices nothing but portends much. It assumes that we can reconcile Canada's interest in the upgrading of its raw-material exports and the Community's concern for secure and economical supplies of the materials it imports, in a more complex kind of co-operation I have felt would eventually be possible. In 1978, too, we should agree upon some facility to assist business people in the Community and in Canada to overcome specific impediments encountered in doing business in the others' territory. Our recent proposal to this end was one direct outcome of the visits of Canadian businessmen to Brussels last year, and we hope you will respond favourably to it. We need to define clearly the environment for business. The businessman must clearly perceive his prospects; he will not waste his effort if his case is hopeless.

Finally, in 1978 we expect to complete a trade-flow study that we hope will contribute to a greater awareness of the existing state and prospects for the development of our bilateral trade relations. We should also continue to promote exchanges in areas of special priority – for example, on science and technology, as you have lately proposed.

These are some of the specific priorities to which I believe we must address ourselves in 1978.

To return to the broader scene to which I referred earlier, we are pleased that recently we were able to conclude a nuclear-safeguards agreement with the Community that takes into account your very real interests, while at the same time conforming with our keenly-felt commitment to non-proliferation. Our participation in the international nuclear-fuel-cycle evaluation program should lead us towards generally-acceptable guarantees that greater dependence on nuclear energy generated by more advanced processes will not lead to greater insecurity brought on by nuclear proliferation.

There is not time to review in detail some of the largest international economic issues, such as the "North-South dialogue" and the multilateral trade negotiations, that we face. But we do ask that you look positively at the kind of outcome Canada must have from the MTN in the form of access to your markets and others if there is to be a mutual balance of advantage. Also, it seems essential to me that we, as major traders, should promote together our interest in preserving the integrity of the present world-trading system. This means ensuring that the trade rules are set fairly, that there is respect for both the rights and obligations of GATT members, and that these shall not be overridden solely because of currently-existing difficulties.

We share common interests, both past, present and future. Together we can provide a dynamic model of co-operation to the international community. Our efforts – and especially those of the private sector – are crucial to the success of our joint endeavours. It is a task that must be pursued diligently. In adopting the report before this committee today, I therefore wish to urge that we intensify our co-operative efforts, both in our own interests and those of the international community at large....

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