

I hope that their report, by highlighting the level and forms of various subsidies and protectionist measures effecting agricultural trade, and by drawing attention to the domestic policies that give rise to them, will move the work to action. One country alone cannot break the cycle of subsidy. But a country like Canada can be a catalyst in this international reform, as we have been on others.

Later, tonight, the Prime Minister will be speaking about the reasons this government attaches the highest priority to restoring our strength in international trade.

More than almost any other industrial country, we depend on trade to grow. Yet in the last decade, we have been slipping behind. While other countries improved their productivity and became more competitive, we patriated a constitution, and brought in FIRA and the NEP. Now we have to catch up. We are doing that, around the world.

In Asia, we are opening new trade offices - in Osaka, Bombay, Shanghai, and Auckland. The Prime Minister has just returned from a trip to China, Korea and Japan where we actively promoted the sale of Canadian products and services. I have been doing the same thing in Europe, and the Middle East, and India and Pakistan. We have secured access for Canada to the expanded G-7, the planning group on international monetary policies. We are discussing with the Europeans ways for Canada to participate in the Eureka program. And, of course, we are conducting new negotiations with our largest trading partner, the United States, to maintain the market we have, and to open new opportunities for Canadians.

There is some fear across our country about the consequences of growing protectionism in the United States, it is a real fear and Canadians have a right to expect their government to seek a better system. We have been warning for months about the protectionist tide in the United States. Suddenly that reality has been driven home to Canadians. The present system does not work in Canada's interest. It needs to be changed. The punitive tariff on shakes and shingles is only the most recent example. American protectionists have also focussed on Canadian hogs and ground fish, and raspberries, and rock salt, and now softwood, and cut flowers.