

THE COMMON GROUND BETWEEN CANADA AND THE NEWLY INDUSTRIALIZING COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. I AM SENDING SENIOR OFFICIALS ON A TRADE POLICY MISSION TO KOREA, INDONESIA, THAILAND, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA AND THE PHILIPPINES. THEIR MANDATE IS TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC AREAS WHERE WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO INCREASE JOINT LEVERAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON MARKET ACCESS.

IN THE SAME SPIRIT, WE ARE TAKING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION CONFERENCE, AN INITIATIVE BY BUSINESS LEADERS, ENCOURAGED BY GOVERNMENTS.

NEXT AUTUMN, THE FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WILL BE HELD HERE IN VANCOUVER. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A NATIONAL PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE OF TWENTY-FOUR PROMINENT CANADIAN BUSINESS, ACADEMIC AND POLITICAL LEADERS, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF ERIC TRIGG.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE, MEMBERS WILL MEET IN BANGKOK TO EXAMINE INVESTMENT LINKAGES, IN SAN FRANCISCO FOR A TRADE SEMINAR, IN JAKARTA, TO EXPLORE CO-OPERATION IN THE ENERGY AND MINERAL SECTOR. THE INITIAL FOCUS IS ON THE ECONOMY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. BUT WHEN I MET THE CANADIAN COMMITTEE EARLIER THIS MONTH, I URGED THEM TO EXPLORE THE ENTIRE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES FOR PACIFIC CO-OPERATION.