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of Ministers the need to lighten the fiscal burden Europe's farm policies now impose.

I should now like to turn from this recital of the Community's achievements to look at the operation of the agreement that Canada and EEC signed just over three years ago. This agreement represented something of an experiment, being the first of its kind for both parties. Its formal provisions, with which many of you are familiar, may be quickly summarized. In the first place, the Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Co-operation does not establish a preferential arrangement, but rather commits both parties to sustained, deliberate, and high-level efforts to promote reciprocal trade, investment, and technological co-operation through whatever means may be found most suitable and promising. Secondly, under the aegis of a Joint Co-operation Committee, meeting normally once a year at the ministerial level to review progress and establish work programs, a series of sub-committees and working groups have been formed. These deal at the working and technical level with a number of sectors that have been identified as fertile areas for collaboration. They cover forest products, the nuclear industry, non-ferrous metals, the aerospace industry, telecommunications, data processing and so on. Exchange programs in the environmental field and in science and technology are also included. Commercial missions from the private sector have been organized on a regular basis in both directions. And a start has been made on putting together seminars designed to make the business communities of the two parties more familiar with various facets of the commercial and investment environment relevant to business decision-making in the European and Canadian contexts.

Our joint endeavour throughout has been to maintain a pragmatic and open-ended approach. The objective is to use the agreement as an evolving instrument for more intensive co-operation between Canada and the European Community in whatever field we can identify as offering promise of mutual advantage.

It goes without saying that this type of framework agreement, however imaginatively conceived, however assiduously pursued, depends ultimately for its success not on the goodwill and aspirations of its signatories, which are governments, but upon the decisions of individual businessmen, industrialists and investors. The role of government in promoting relations between market economies is properly circumscribed. Nevertheless, given the pervasive interaction between the public and private sectors in modern industrial societies, it would be rash to disparage the part governments can play in opening the way to the expansion and diversification of economic relations between major trading entities, in this case the European Communities and Canada. Governments can be of assistance in bringing businessmen together. They can help in promoting a mutual awareness of opportunities and in fostering individual contacts between entrepreneurs with complementary interests. Getting to know each other better is more often than not an indispensable first step to doing business together. Here government's help can often be decisive, more particularly when smaller or medium-size enterprises are concerned. Governmental regulation can impose obstacles to the free flow of goods and investments; and by the same token governmental co-operation can remove these obstacles. The resources of governments can be channelled towards technological development and can stimulate

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