

whole, very heartening. There appears to be strong and growing support for a number of issues that we in Canada consider vital.

It's still too early to predict exactly what will be on the agenda, but here are some of the things we're looking for:

First, a tightening up of the rules of trade. We need stricter codes to cut down on the abuse of countervail duties, emergency safeguard measures and a whole range of actions that are being distorted by the pressures of protectionism. There has been so much slip-page here that the whole trading system is threatened.

Second, we want world markets to be opened more in a variety of areas, including services, high technology, forest products, nonferrous metals, fish and, importantly, agriculture.

And third, we want stricter and clearer rules on the practice of subsidizing exports by one means or another. And here I'm thinking particularly of agriculture, where foreign subsidies are causing great hardship to Canadian farmers.



This isn't the whole shopping list, of course. It's just some of the highlights, but I think we stand a good chance of getting most of it on the agenda. There seems to be widespread agreement, for example, that the world's trading nations must finally take a hard look at agriculture -- and I suspect that won't come as bad news here in Winnipeg.

Now let's look at that other set of trade negotiations we're involved in, the one that makes most of the news.

There has been a great deal of coverage of every aspect of our bilateral negotiations with the United States, and I suspect that you, as business people, are almost as familiar with the issue as I am. But there's one important area that I think is spending more time on, and that is the form the negotiations will take -- how they'll be conducted, the provinces'

role in them and the organization we have put in place to make sure our negotiators stay in tune with the wishes and needs of Canadians from all walks of life.



As you know, the negotiations have already started. The first meetings between the two chief negotiators -- Ambassador Simon Reisman on our side and Ambassador Peter Murphy for the United States -- were held on the 21st and 22nd of last month in Ottawa. They dealt mostly with form -- the shape of the conference table and that sort of thing -- and I'm happy to report that there were no major differences of opinion. Unlike some other international negotiations, both sides quickly agreed on how to conduct the negotiations.

The second set of meetings started yesterday in Washington and are continuing today. With form disposed of so quickly, these meetings are mostly on substance.

That is going to be the pattern, by the way: alternate meetings in Ottawa and Washington. There's no particular timetable for the meetings. The negotiators will get together whenever both sides are ready to talk about whatever topic or topics are at hand.



We have put in place a rather extensive series of mechanisms to provide Mr. Reisman and his team with guidance and support. It is not only extensive; I think you'll agree with me that it is impressive. It is also a first. Canada has never before had anything like it. Which means that we should be better prepared for these talks than we have been for any set of trade negotiations in the past.

The mechanisms come in two general forms, one to maintain dialogue with the private sector -- industry, labour and consumers -- and the other to ensure the