

I raised these problems with responsible ministers, including the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. While we consider it most important that we still have not been able to make any progress on the 10 per cent duty, it is gratifying to note that it now seems likely there will be a JAS\* standard for softwood plywood by sometime this summer.

Also working to increase market access for Canadian goods to Japan is the Canada-Japan businessmen's conference, which, as many of you know, will be meeting in May in Sapporo. In particular, the manufacturing sector group of the Canadian committee will be proposing to the Japanese side that they might recognize certain categories of goods from Canada as having real import possibilities for Japan.

From Canada, these would include products where cost or supply advantages are derived from our relative abundance of energy and raw materials, or products where our technological specialization has resulted in a world-wide reputation for design, quality and cost competitiveness. The committee suggests that the first category might include non-ferrous metal castings, petrochemicals, glass, plastics, etc., and their products, ocean equipment and nuclear electric generating plant.

I have no hesitation whatsoever in supporting the Canadian committee in this regard and indeed, along with the President of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Mr. Roy Phillips, who is part of my mission, have mentioned their expectations in our discussions with Minister Abe, the Japanese businessmen, and in particular with the executive of the Japanese committee of the Canada-Japan businessmen's committee.

In addition to bilateral trade flows, however, there are other ways in which our two countries can work together. There is, for instance, the opportunity to co-operate on projects in third countries. This was a possibility I explored when I was here last June and I understand that the Canadian Exporters' Association and the Japanese Machinery Exporters' Association will be meeting next month in Toronto to discuss what possibilities for co-operation there might be. The Joint Insurance Agreement between Canada's Export Development Corporation and the Export Insurance Department of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Japan, which Minister Abe and I announced on Wednesday, is indicative of government support for this idea and should, we hope, facilitate such projects.

\* Japanese Agricultural Standard