

We can now add to the Canada-Community relationship in a significant way under our new Agreement by using this imaginative framework to bring about a dynamic and mutually beneficial expansion of our commercial and economic connections. Cooperation with the Community collectively will, of course, be pursued by Canada with full appreciation of the interests and competences of the individual member states. In our view these relations should develop both bilaterally and with the Community as a whole so that they reinforce and complement one another.

This is one of the reasons why we consider it important that our joint efforts under the Agreement should be launched with all possible speed. With the signature and ratification of the Agreement we completed phase one which can be considered the preliminary phase of the operation. Inasmuch as today's meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee will be essentially organizational, we should perhaps regard it as the transitional stage leading to phase two. In our view this next phase should begin as early as possible in the new year so that the Joint Committee can get down to its main purpose, without delay, of bringing about cooperation in practical and effective ways. I think we are in full agreement that to achieve this objective the Committee will need to establish a substructure and *modus operandi* which will enable it to quickly identify priority areas or sectors for cooperation. At the same time the organizational framework must be conducive to bringing together appropriate elements of our respective business communities in a close working relationship. In the end, it is their response to the work which will be undertaken by the Joint Committee which will be of utmost importance to achieving results. I would underline here that our respective authorities will not be seeking to employ the Agreement as a means of developing an interventionist approach. In our sort of economic systems that would not be appropriate and that is not our intention. Instead, in selected areas, we shall be trying to promote economic and commercial cooperation and to foster an environment conducive to industrial cooperation in particular. In short, while government will take as active a role as it can, given our economic system it is clear that much will depend on the private sector. In particular it will depend on the readiness of the private sector to respond to what I would call catalytic action on the part of government. That is, business must be ready to seize the opportunities which emerge from a process in which they will, of course, have been closely involved.

On the Canadian side, we are also very much aware that effective implementation of the Agreement will often require the involvement and cooperation of our provincial governments. This is something we shall want to ensure and we shall, of course, make appropriate arrangements to associate our provincial authorities in the process of implementation. Our provinces, I am pleased to say, have expressed keen interest in and support