

We are working actively with Provincial Trade Ministers to work out a national trade strategy.

Trade was a very important part of the First Ministers Conference in Regina, and, as you know, it was a vital part of the Quebec City Summit Meeting between Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan. As you probably know, I have been charged to work with the U.S. Trade Representative on the specific task of establishing a bilateral mechanism to chart ways to reduce or eliminate impediments to trade between our two countries. And in this regard, I can report that I have had excellent meetings in the past two weeks with both Ambassador Mike Smith, the acting U.S.T.R., and Clayton Yeutter, who has been named by President Reagan to take over the job. We'll be working together this summer and will submit a preliminary report in September.

The other major initiative we have taken is what brings me here today. Back in January, the government issued two discussion papers -- one on Export Financing, which is of a somewhat technical nature, and the other on How to Secure and Enhance Canadian Access to Export Markets.

Both of these papers are available here today, and I have to tell you that the access paper has been going like hot-cakes. We've had orders for more than 25,000 copies and the paper is now in its fourth printing. The Book of the Month Club hasn't called yet, but I'm sure it's going to.

For those of you who haven't seen the access paper, let me give you a quick digest.

It opens with a description of the international trading environment -- a place filled with traps and barriers, and inhabited by predators -- and then considers how we can survive in it.

One thing we must do, since Canada's export performance depends so heavily on maintaining an orderly international trading system, is to give our active support to beginning another round of multilateral trade negotiations under the GATT. As we do so, we must also determine among ourselves what our objectives should be in a new GATT round, so that the agenda for negotiations will reflect our concerns. At the recent OECD meeting in Paris, the industrial countries made unexpected progress toward getting a new round underway. It now looks like the next round could begin next year.