

have reiterated their commitment to see the NAFTA come into force on January 1, 1994.

At the same time, we welcome the opportunity to achieve additional "side" agreements on the environment and labour. Canada continues to play a leading role in talks to strengthen environmental co-operation among the NAFTA partners. Indeed, we were a strong proponent of a trilateral commission on the environment during the NAFTA negotiations themselves.

At that time we also advocated establishing a trilateral forum to explore labour issues. This was turned down at the time, so we are pleased that the United States and Mexico are now prepared to discuss a trilateral agreement in this area. Canada is in full support of efforts to improve working and living standards in all three countries and, as the NAFTA preamble states, "to protect, enhance and enforce basic workers' rights."

Let me express some concerns here about the supplemental agreements. As I said, we favour them, but express caution about what can be achieved. Expectations are high. My concern lies in the area of enforcement.

Some observers have talked about putting teeth in these side agreements, but teeth can bite in many ways. Let us collaborate and let us consult. Let us try to raise enforcement standards. Let us agree on minimum standards. Let us raise public awareness of sustainable development and other environmental and labour issues. But does the U.S. want Mexico enforcing, through Mexican trade remedy laws, environmental standards in California? Or Canada doing the same thing, through Canadian laws, in the State of Washington?

Let us learn from each other's experience, but for the NAFTA to be a success we must also respect each other's sovereignty. This will be the biggest challenge we face in completing the NAFTA approval process.

Canadians have listened closely to the debate about the NAFTA in your country. We have heard the criticisms and, believe me, they are familiar.

We, too, have heard the prophets of doom predict all manner of afflictions for our economy when we negotiated the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. Five and a half years ago last weekend, Jim Baker and I stood together in Washington and told a press conference that the FTA that we had concluded the night before was a win-win situation for both countries. The last four years have dramatically proven the truth of that statement.

Let me make it very clear. The Government of Canada is more than ever convinced that the decision we made to enter into the Agreement in 1989 was the right one. The NAFTA will build on the solid achievements seen by Canadians and Americans alike under