

AT HOME, WE BOTH FACE THE REVOLUTION OF MICRO-TECHNOLOGY, THE COMPUTER AND THE ROBOT. WITH THE SPECTACULAR ADVANCES IN STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL OF DATA, WE ARE EXPERIENCING AN INFORMATION EXPLOSION. IN THE SPAN OF A GENERATION OUR SCHOOLS HAVE MOVED FROM THE ABACUS TO THE POCKET CALCULATOR TO THE PERSONAL COMPUTER. THE OUTLINES OF A COMPARABLE REVOLUTION IN BIOTECHNOLOGY ARE BECOMING CLEARER. THESE MEAN TREMENDOUS AND FAR-REACHING CHANGES FOR OUR INDUSTRIES, OUR ECONOMIES AND OUR SOCIETIES. WE ARE ALREADY WITNESSING MUCH OF THIS CHANGE. WE WILL BE ADDRESSING TOGETHER THESE KEY ISSUES AT NEXT WEEK'S OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING AND THE SUMMIT MEETING IN LONDON IN JUNE.

BILATERALLY, AS WELL, THERE IS MUCH KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO SHARE ON THESE ISSUES. WE BOTH NEED TO UNDERSTAND BETTER THE NEW SHIFTS IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE. WE SHOULD CONSIDER HOW OUR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGES AND ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE, AS WELL AS OUR CANADA/UK CONTINUING COMMITTEE. OUR FIRMS AND BUSINESSMEN HAVE LONG-ESTABLISHED PATTERNS OF WORKING AND TRANSACTING TOGETHER. THERE IS ALSO NEED FOR A COMPLEMENTARY AND CATALYTIC ROLE FOR GOVERNMENTS.

FAR-REACHING CHANGES ARE ALSO TAKING PLACE IN THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT. AS LATE AS THE BEGINNING OF THE SEVENTIES WE, YOU AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH WERE LINKED BY A PREFERENTIAL TARIFF. TODAY THE UNITED KINGDOM IS PART OF A EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ZONE, COMPRISING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AREA. IF YOU ADD TO THAT THE LOME CONVENTION AND PAINT WITH A COMMON COLOUR ALL THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THESE PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS, YOU HAVE THE CONFIGURATION OF THE OLD ROMAN EMPIRE, AND MUCH OF THE BRITISH, FRENCH, PORTUGUESE AND BELGIAN EMPIRES COMBINED.

WHAT DOES THIS DO FOR OUR OLD BILATERAL RELATIONS? OUR BILATERAL TRADE ACCESS PROBLEMS AND TRADE POLICY ISSUES ARE NOW IN THE MAIN CONDUCTED WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS. BRITAIN OBVIOUSLY NOW HAS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE INTERESTS OF THE OTHER NINE MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY. AND WE ARE ALWAYS CONCERNED THAT OUR INTERESTS RISK BEING COMPROMISED BY THE INEVITABLE HORSE-TRADING AMONG THE MEMBER STATES. NEWSPRINT IS A CLASSIC CASE.