

it is balanced and examines such requirements in the context of the behaviour of multinational enterprises and at the same time addresses actions by home governments which affect the practices of multinational enterprises.

This is not an exhaustive list of issues to be considered by Ministers in November, but I believe it reflects our priorities. They have been developed in consultation with the provinces and private sector.

Before concluding, I would like to comment briefly on Canada/United States relations in this context. In consultations with businessmen and the provinces over recent months, strong concern has been voiced about the state of the Canada/US relationship. It is worth noting that the United States shares our objective of strengthening the GATT, seeing this as the best way of advancing its worldwide trade interests. We are working closely with the Americans as preparations for the November meeting proceed. Our positions are very close in the area of safeguards, dispute settlement and agriculture. On the few areas where there are some differences, such as performance requirements, we are consulting closely with American representatives to seek compromise approaches which will protect the interests of both sides.

In setting our sights on what the Ministerial meeting in November might achieve, while we need to aim high we must at the same time be realistic. While we do not underestimate the difficulties and challenges which lie ahead, we are confident that we can produce a commitment to live by the agreed rules and to work together on a substantive work programme which addresses trade issues of current concern to all GATT signatories. As a small country with a major stake in trade, Canada must seek to improve the system and make it more relevant to the trade issues of current concern. Above all, we need to ensure that our major trading partners remain committed to the system and do not revert to the rule of the jungle which prevailed in the 1930s.

In sum, let me repeat how much I look forward to working with you to meet the challenges of international trade. We've got a lot to sell, we have the means to sell it, and we're working on the rules - both domestic and international. The 1980s offer Canada great export opportunities. There is no country in the world to which the attainment of this goal is more vital than Canada.