

Canada is reviewing economic and trade relationships with the United States because trade across our borders is so immense. Last year 75% of Canadian imports went to the United States. Our two-way trade exceeded \$110 billion. Much of that trade is relatively free, but protectionist initiatives could have a serious negative impact on Canada. But we are conscious of the political pressures for trade protection particularly when trade balances are not perceived as fair, or where trade balances do not reflect fair job creation and employment opportunities. I want to assure you today that in seeking more secure access to the U.S. market we have not and will not diminish our commitment to other trading partners including Japan or to multilateral trade initiatives.

In the final analysis our economic and political future depends upon our ability to use our mutual appreciation of values, strengths, aspirations and responsibilities to work together. The years ahead will be years of challenge and opportunity for Canada and for Japan. We must confront the challenge of restructuring our economies in the global market. We must stand firm in our commitment to an open international trading system. We must find mechanisms to build closer links in trade, technology and investment between our private sectors. We have achieved much in the past. I know that in the years to come we will meet the challenges and opportunities with vigour, imagination and cooperation.