

department's traditional strengths in the foreign policy domain. These specialists are now organized on a more rational geographic and functional basis and are ready to assist you with any problems that you may encounter in your international ventures, be they on international financing requirements, customs regulations, an assessment of political stability or the outlook for economic activity in any specific market.

You will also be interested to know that within the Department, there is an International Trade Development Branch, which incorporates officials with industry sector experience in the Grains Marketing, the marketing of agriculture, fish and food products, the high technology and defence products as well as the manufacturing and primary industries areas. The concentration of such marketing sector expertise in Canada's new Department of External Affairs is a radical departure in the organization of the Canadian government and reflects the high priority afforded to trade matters.

To reinforce the linkage between industrial development and trade promotion, my officials work closely with the industry and regional specialists of the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion in Ottawa and in their offices located across Canada.

In addition to the services available through the Offices of the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion on a decentralized basis, a Trade Information Centre has been established within External Affairs in Ottawa. This Centre, which provides information on the full range of export services provided by the government to exporters and potential exporters, is symbolic of our responsive service orientation to the needs of the Canadian industry.

I am pleased to say that Dr. Sylvia Ostry has now joined the Department as our new Deputy Minister for International Trade and Coordinator of International Economic Relations. We will draw on her international economic experience to assist in the formulation of policies which incorporate and give further expression to the importance of international trade in Canada's economy. Dr. Ostry will also accompany me to the Davos Symposium.

In closing, I believe that conferences such as the one today develop a better understanding of the challenges facing the world and lead to greater cooperation in solving some of the problems facing us today.