

evident in economies where the trade deficit may not be as spectacular as that in the United States. In several countries, market access has recently been tightened in sectors including agriculture, consumer electronics, automobiles, textiles and clothing, and steel. That poses a problem for all governments interested in open trade. If we are forced to focus on fighting protection, we have less time to build new, more open relations. Our challenge is to reverse the growing trend towards protection everywhere in the world.

The new Conservative Government of Canada recognizes the vital role trade plays in the well-being of the Canadian and ASEAN economies. We accept the challenge and the need to be internationally competitive. Like the ASEAN nations, Canada has to pursue every export opportunity, large or small, traditional or new. This demands that we participate in the search for ways of improving access to export markets in an increasingly competitive and protectionist international market environment.

Canada shares in the search for a more stable world trading environment. Decisions taken over the next year or two with respect to trade negotiations will shape the trading framework for the remainder of the 20th century. Preparatory work for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations is likely to begin in 1986.

These negotiations will be about:

- (A) Trade liberalization of tariff and non-tariff barriers;
- (B) Improving trade rules for a more predictable trading environment; and
- (C) Improvements in the trading system including improvement in the GATT dispute settlement system.

The results of the recent Bonn Economic Summit Meeting may give us a reading on the international economic outlook. Bonn was one of the most difficult Summit Meetings. However, its discussions reflected the inter-dependence between the developed and developing world. There was a recognition of the need to sustain growth in world trade, to lower interest rates, open markets, and to improve the flow of resources to the developing world. Official development assistance was recognized as essential to enable countries to achieve sound economic growth.