

Our trade negotiations strategy for both the bilateral and multilateral talks is to get our objectives right, to assess what foreign barriers to our trade exist, and in what order we should attack them, and to decide over the next months and years when and how and in what forum to negotiate each issue. That is why in terms of the Canada/U.S. initiative we have an absolute necessity to tie down our Number One customer first. Secondly, by moving now as we have done, there is sufficient time for thorough negotiation with the U.S. and detailed discussion at home throughout the process.

Continuing to manage this process well requires close, continuing, and intensive consultation with the provinces, the private sector and labour. I and other Ministers in this government will be spending a great deal of time on this since it is a process in which we firmly and very deeply believe. We accept the notion that Canadians are partners in this enterprise together. We are building the foundations of an economically renewed Canada into the next century and we want to do it together.

We will be seeking to maximize Canada's advantage without harming the interests of our trading partners. We have assured our GATT partners together and individually that Canada will adhere scrupulously to our international obligations. It will also mean that we will be sensitive to the trade interest of all our trading partners.

Our over-riding purpose will be to maximize the growth of trade with all countries. A strengthened, more efficient Canadian economy will help us achieve our longer-term economic and social goals as Canadians. As the member states of the European Communities found as they liberalized

trade barriers amongst themselves, we shall be able to participate in more markets, with a larger production of goods and services, and with more effectiveness than ever before.

Success in securing a new trade arrangement with the United States will help us in penetrating other markets as these countries become even more interested in our market. Our trade dependence on the United States might even diminish in the longer term, as Ireland found out with respect to its trade with the United Kingdom following its entry into the European Community. Investors and others will also find Canada a more attractive place with which to trade and invest as we create a more efficient economy with higher incomes. Our interests and our claims will be taken even more seriously in the councils of the world and in corporate boardrooms. A new perspective and dynamism will be brought to bear on Canadians, and others, deciding to invest and to build in our country.

The Canadian people will judge us on the new opportunities that we successfully attain for Canada. We will expect the Opposition to focus on the benefits for Canada and not exclusively on the costs for Canada. There will be problems, we will recognize them, and we will deal with them sensitively, honestly, and openly. But this is not the time to focus only on the potential obstacles. It is time to move forward confidently and with vision.

The next century belongs to Canada. Canadians collectively will face a much better future, one in which it will be possible to prosper and grow, if we are successful in our goal to become the Number One Trading Nation. The stakes are high, and we need the support of all Canadians,