

I assure you here today that I have been true to my word. The Auto Pact shall remain in place; the cultural industries exemption will be preserved.

That is not all. We will not cancel our present policies on screening of foreign investment. We will not permit any weakening of the dispute settlement and panel review process. These are fundamental positions for Canada, and we are resolved not to alter them.

I leave for Mexico tomorrow to try to conclude these negotiations. It is possible to arrive at an agreement, but it is certainly not pre-determined.

We believe the NAFTA will open new markets, not just to Mexico but to the rest of the Americas.

We believe the NAFTA can further secure our vital trading relationship with the United States.

We believe the NAFTA will encourage investment in Canada to serve an integrated market of 360 million people.

We believe that a NAFTA will help the Canadian economy become more competitive.

But I will not settle for any agreement. It has to be the right agreement: an agreement that will achieve our goals; an agreement that will serve Canada's interests in a way that will strengthen our country and build a stronger base for our future prosperity.