

But it is not only in the U. S. front that we are pursuing expanded trade. Our government is seeking to expand trade of Canadian goods throughout the world. We are committed to the multilateral trade negotiations under the GATT - the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. A stable trading system has been a cornerstone of world economic growth. At Punta del Este in Uruguay last month, there was unanimous agreement - after a week of long, protracted argument - to launch an ambitious and comprehensive new round of trade negotiations. This new "Uruguay Round", as the negotiations are to be called, remains the best chance to make progress in establishing basic rules of the game in international trade, and halting the forces of protectionism.

It was not easy to reach unanimity. The major difficulty was on so-called "new issues", in particular, trade in services, which are so important to Alberta. Their inclusion in the negotiations could ultimately open the door to fundamental changes in this rapidly growing sector.

Once negotiations begin, the Uruguay declaration ensures that overall market access interests will be advanced by negotiations on both tariff and non-tariff barriers. We anticipate that over the longer term, the MTN should instill new confidence in our export sector by strengthening the GATT as an institution through a better dispute settlement system.

This government is also breaking new ground in the use we make of official trips. In Beijing, the Prime Minister opened the meeting of the Canada/China Trade Council, adding immense authority to the idea of economic cooperation between the two countries.

As the Minister responsible for External Affairs, I have made a point of taking Canadian investors virtually everywhere I travel - that was not the practice of previous Secretaries of State. Together, we have helped find new opportunities for sales, for investment, for joint ventures, for technology transfer - in India and in Uruguay, in Pakistan, Egypt and Thailand - in Tokyo, Caracas and the Pampas of Argentina.

When I had the honour last month to lead the Canadian Delegation to the GATT Ministerial Meeting, our numbers included not just our own excellent public servants, but also leaders in Canadian business and economics, and