

Improved rules and dispute-settlement procedures would help Canada -- and all trading partners -- protect and promote respective trade interests on the basis of clear rules rather than economic clout.

A successful conclusion to the Round would extend GATT disciplines to intellectual property and the rapidly expanding world trade in services.

We would both welcome the resumption of talks on the Uruguay Round. We are encouraged by the Clinton administration's intention to seek from Congress extension of the U.S. "fast-track" approval process, and their strong commitment to conclude these talks by December 15 this year.

Our commitment to a successful Uruguay Round does not preclude agreements liberalizing regional trade that are consistent with the GATT, however, and neither has yours.

Chile has shown dynamic leadership in its unilateral steps to reduce trade barriers, as well as in its co-operative arrangements: Chile is to be congratulated on signing free trade agreements with Mexico and Venezuela.

Your exports to Mexico doubled in the first year of that free trade agreement, providing a market for your booming fruit and agriculture exports, as well as solid opportunities for your processed and high value-added goods. Those results came from tariff reductions and a strong commitment from your private sector to enhance export trade.

Canada achieved the goal of freer trade on a regional level more than four years ago when we implemented the FTA with the United States. Five regularly scheduled tariff reductions have taken place since then, along with three rounds of accelerated tariff reductions.

Comparing total figures for the four years prior to 1989 with the four years since the FTA, our merchandise trade with the United States has increased by 18.2 per cent -- despite a slowdown in the world economy.

Our January trade surplus with the United States of \$2.2 billion was up 78 per cent, or \$1 billion from a year earlier.

Strong export growth indicates the increasing competitiveness of Canada's export-oriented sectors. Exports will contribute to stronger economic growth for the Canadian economy in 1993. Recent indicators show that both the Canadian and U.S. economies will post stronger performances this year.