

by supporting a new satellite education network to promote the exchange of information, training, technical assistance and research.

In June 1988, leaders from the world's seven major industrialized democracies — France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada — met in Toronto to foster sustainable world economic growth and to consider how to respond effectively and coherently to economic challenges as they arise. The composition of the Group of Seven reflects recognition of Canada's importance as an economic power and world trader, and further underlines the country's traditional role as an honest broker in multilateral discussions.

The staging of the 15th Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, Alberta, in February 1988 further reinforced Canada's position as an active participant in the international community.

The hosting of the GATT Ministerial Meeting in Montreal in December 1988 to review the mid-term progress of the Uruguay Round underlined Canada's commitment to freer international trade.

Canada is largely defined by its geographic location and its ethnic composition. It belongs to the Americas and maintains productive relations with its Latin and Caribbean neighbours; it is North American without being American; it is a member of both Atlantic and Pacific communities; it has an Arctic vocation and responsibilities.

Domestically, Canadians are continually challenged and immeasurably enriched by the diversity and breadth of their multicultural heritage. Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, said: **"We are a young nation but an old democracy. We speak two of the world's principal languages. We have been formed,**

in part, by the thought and the values of our French and British forebears. Our culture has been enriched by our native peoples and by immigrants from every land. Our vision of the new world illuminates our achievements and sustains our aspirations: tolerance, justice, generosity and a desire for peace."

These attributes have prompted Canadians to reach outward to all parts of the world for economic and political partners. In an interdependent world, multilateralism serves both to achieve international understanding and cooperation and to counterbalance those traditional bilateral relationships which are so important and necessary. For Canadians, constructive internationalism and independence are two sides of the same coin.

CANADA HOSTED THE WORLD IN 1987-1988

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