

agreements. It would be tragic to see this chance pass by because the apostles of protectionism carried the day, either in the United States or Canada.

For our part, this is not an isolated initiative. I sat late into the night in Punta del Este working out the language of the Declaration launching the Uruguay Round - insisting particularly that it cover trade in agriculture. The Mulroney Government is giving a new high priority to trade across our western ocean, to Asia and the Pacific. The Prime Minister led trade delegations last year to Japan, Korea and China, and we have opened new trade offices in Osaka, Shanghai, Bombay and New Zealand. We were determined to bring the best out of the Canadian economy, and so have replaced the Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA), and the National Energy Program (NEP), and registered three consecutive reductions in our national deficits. Those are other elements of the strategy of economic strength, of which the trade initiatives are part. Naturally, any initiative in trade must include our best efforts to improve our access to our largest trading partner.

Our relationship, of course, goes well beyond trade. We are the two North American partners in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and, two years ago, signed an agreement launching cooperation in the North Warning System, on this continent. As all governments do, we face fiscal restraint, including on defence expenditures. But even in that context, we have increased our commitment to Europe by twelve hundred troops, taken the decision to procure a state-of-the-art low level air defence system for our forces in NATO and re-equipped the Canadian air group with the CF-18 fighter aircraft.

Since 1958, NORAD has given both Canada and the United States an integrated command structure providing for early warning of air attack, air defence, surveillance of space and early warning of ballistic missile attacks. The NORAD agreement, embodying this unique cooperative arrangement, was renewed for a further five years at the March 1986 Washington meeting between the President and the Prime Minister.