

THE CANADA OF 1985 IS NOT THE FRAGILE NEWCOMER TO THE FAMILY OF NATIONS THAT IT WAS AT CONFEDERATION. WE HAVE COME OF AGE, AND THE EXPECTATIONS OF OUR CITIZENS HAVE MATURED. IT IS NOW APPROPRIATE FOR CANADA TO BE MORE ASSERTIVE, BOTH AS TO WHO WE ARE, AND WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE.

OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS, OTHER COUNTRIES AND OTHER ECONOMIES PULLED AHEAD OF CANADA, DESPITE OUR ABUNDANT RESOURCES AND SKILLS. WE FAILED TO KEEP PACE WITH TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS. IN 1968, CANADA EXPORTED MORE THAN JAPAN; TODAY, JAPAN'S EXPORTS ARE MORE THAN DOUBLE OUR OWN. GLOBALLY, WE FELL FROM FOURTH TO EIGHTH AS A MAJOR EXPORTER. OUT OF SEVENTY MANUFACTURING SECTORS, WE GAINED MARKET SHARE IN ONLY FOUR, AND DECLINED IN TWENTY-ONE.

THOSE STATISTICS ARE A WARNING. INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING THAT SAW JAPAN MOVE FROM TOYS TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY IS BEING REPEATED IN KOREA, CHINA, THAILAND AND INDIA. THE TERMS OF TRADE ARE WORKING AGAINST CANADA'S RESOURCE BASE, AS WE BECOME MORE DEPENDENT ON TRADE IN PRIMARY GOODS. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT WE HAVE NOT ADJUSTED TO A CHANGING WORLD AS FAST AS OUR COMPETITION.