

ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL H. WILSON,
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE,
ON TRADE LIBERALIZATION

Mr. Chairman:

Trade is one of the pillars of our work together in APEC. Nothing defines better the ties that bind us, nor the promise of even better things to come, than the movement of goods and services and the accompanying movement of capital, technology and ideas between our countries. The vitality of trade in our region is one of the success stories of the past two decades and gives us every hope of an even better future.

A large part of Canada's future growth and prosperity depends on this region. Increasingly open markets, strong financial markets, a willingness and capacity to innovate and take risks, and a well educated, flexible and large human resource base all add up to a highly competitive region in which traders, investors and innovators can grow and prosper. It is a region Canada has been associated with for well over one hundred years. It is one that is increasingly becoming part of Canada's mind-set, our self-definition and our fundamental attitudes. Indeed, increasingly, Canada no longer ends in Vancouver but continues through Vancouver and reaches south and west to all the markets of this region.

Opening markets is a key to prosperity. Those who represented our various economies at the two earlier general APEC meetings -- and those in particular who attended the APEC ministerial meeting on the MTN that we hosted in Vancouver in September 1989 -- have recognized this and wisely launched APEC's work in this direction. I commend them and the work of officials who between these meetings have set out a very well thought through plan of action. We will turn to that work plan in a moment.

First, let me say that no event will do more to ensure the long-term vitality of the region and of all the work in the trade field that we plan to do than an early, successful completion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks. This major five-year effort to further reduce trade barriers worldwide and to establish new trade rules has reached a critical juncture.

We are encouraged by recent signals that there may be room for flexibility on agriculture. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Director General Arthur Dunkel has set in train the