

This dramatic change in such a short period cannot continue, especially when compared to the very severe restriction on imports of foreign automobiles applied by most of our other major trading partners. Needless to say, Canadians are further frustrated when we read that all the major Japanese auto vehicle manufacturing and assembly plants announced to date do not include any in Canada.

Although our proposals were rejected, we have agreed to continue discussion at the official level and indeed I am hopeful that our proposals will be reconsidered and that a new weather forecasting system will be undertaken. I sincerely believe that this is in the best long-term interests of both our countries.

We have long characterized our bilateral trade and economic relationship as being essentially a positive and complementary relationship, although one in which there is always room for improvement. It is a relationship that has until recently favoured Canada with a large trade surplus; although, as many of you know, this surplus almost disappeared during 1981. Resource products will undoubtedly continue to be the major exports to Japan and these will pick up considerably in the decade to come as the Japanese domestic demand increases, and as new projects, such as coal developments in North-East British Columbia, come on stream. It is essential, however, that we continue our efforts to upgrade our exports to Japan and sell more in the way of fully manufactured goods.

With this in mind, we will be closely monitoring the initiatives to remove a large number of barriers relating to standards and quality testing, as announced at the end of January. We also welcome the appointment of a trade ombudsman, who, I am sure, will be helpful in resolving problems. If fully implemented, these are good first steps in Japan's ongoing efforts to open her markets.

Accordingly, I invited over 50 Canadian businessmen to join me in Japan to pursue market opportunities. That these companies have come on short notice, and so soon after these liberalization moves were announced, is, I believe, confirmation that Canadians will be aggressive in pursuing new opportunities in the Japanese market.

These companies represent three main groups. One is the high technology sector. I am pleased to have companies with me whose expertise covers aerospace, ocean technology,