

should not overlook its very remarkable achievements. To a large extent, because of G.A.T.T., tariffs have been lowered to the point where they are often not the central issue any more. The most recent round of negotiations launched a major initiative against non-tariff barriers to trade. The G.A.T.T. provides the most solid base from which to expand the assault on the new trade-inhibiting measures which have recently proliferated in order to ensure that future trade is fair trade for all.

The November meeting of the G.A.T.T. Ministers, which incidentally Canada will chair, is the first such meeting since 1973. While it is not intended to launch a major new round of trade negotiations, it is expected to agree on a work programme, a trade agenda for the 1980's so that issues of concern and areas of particular interest can be addressed in ways to strengthen and make more relevant, hence more credible, the system as a whole. We attach the highest priority to a successful result at this meeting and are preparing our case on issues of special concern to Canada.

I might add that we share with the United States many of the same concerns about the G.A.T.T., such as the need to make it more effective, to strengthen the safeguard system, to study the problems related to trade in services, to integrate the developing countries, especially the newly industrialized countries, more fully into the trading system and to a renewed commitment by all nations to the G.A.T.T. dispute settlement mechanism.

Time does not permit me to go into greater detail about these but I have made available for you copies of a speech which I delivered to the International Chamber of Commerce on June 22, 1982, in which the priorities which Canada sees as meriting attention are spelled out.

Our two countries also share many other areas of common interest where there is scope for coordinated and concentrated efforts on the part of our respective governments. The joint interest we mutually share in preserving and strengthening the North American automobile industry is one such example. Another is our joint interest in urging Japan to open its market to efficient producers from both our countries, realizing that Japan, as a country, is for both Canada and the United States our second most important market. We must focus on all those issues where our two nations share the same interests and ensure that they are concluded to the mutual benefit of both of us.