

All of these fundamental questions -- export financing, a new GATT round and our relationships with the United States -- will be brought forward shortly, in formal Cabinet discussion papers. As you can see, trade is very much on our minds. It will be on the agenda at the First Ministers Conference next month in Regina. It will be on the agenda when Prime Minister Mulroney meets President Reagan on St. Patrick's Day in Quebec.

It has already been the subject of an extremely fruitful meeting of federal and provincial trade ministers, as a result of which we are all working together to map out a national trade strategy. In addition, I will be representing Canada at trade policy talks to be held in Kyoto next month and in Germany in March.

In the meantime, we will be consulting, formally and informally, with all sectors of Canada's economy. These consultations will be thorough, but they will not stretch on and on into the sunset. We will choose our paths and set our directions.

And, we will act.

It goes without saying that the C.M.A. is an important part of the country's economic life. We look forward to your contribution to this process of national consultation.

Thank You!