

There is an OECD meeting in early April, an Economic Summit in early May, and an active continuing discussion about options in Canada-US trade. I am particularly pleased with the results that were achieved at Quebec. The Summit Declaration on Trade reflects the strong personal commitment of the Prime Minister and the President to create a more secure, predictable environment. Both leaders specifically committed themselves to halt protectionism on cross-border trade in goods and services. As well, both countries agreed to adopt measures to enhance access to each other's market. A program has been launched to explore means to facilitate and increase not only trade but also investment.

Of equal importance was the strong and clear commitment on the part of both countries to work together to make the open, multilateral trading system work better, and to strengthen and extend the disciplines governing international commerce. Canada was one of the principal architects of the multilateral economic system, and it remains one of the cornerstones of our foreign policy.

There are evident tensions among and between the Summit partners as to the sources of continuing international economic malaise. Exchange rates, macro-economic policies and the proposal for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, are major issues, and Canada will be working to achieve a policy consensus at Bonn.

A major Canadian objective will be to obtain a commitment to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations in early 1986. That will help provide the focus to keep at bay the protectionist pressures that are welling up in many countries. Equally, those negotiations could lead to new disciplines and initiatives to protect and strengthen the multilateral trading system. Our immediate objective is to ensure that there will be a meeting of senior officials in GATT this summer, which will launch the formal preparatory process. The importance of an open trading system is among the many questions in which Canada and the United States have a similar interest.

Naturally, there are others. And, in a sense, it is unfortunate that Canadian commentators are so preoccupied with the United States. That blinds us to the fact that the same forces which draw Canada into a closer relation with the United States also draw Canada into a closer relation with the rest of the world. The Global Village, which everyone talks about, will not leave us alone. If involvement in the wider world were a matter of choice before, it is an irresistible necessity now. Canada was once a country of Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. Today, our emotions are engaged by starvation in Africa; our survival is at stake in negotiations at Geneva; and our economy depends on being better than the Koreans, the Germans and the Saudis in producing tiny computers and heavy equipment and crude oil.

The foothills west of my home town in Alberta, were once a refuge for so-called remittance men, who wanted to leave the world of civilized Europe behind. There is no refuge now. That idea is out of date — and so is the idea that Canada could somehow sit primly at the side, mediating, moderating, and choosing fastidiously where we would sell our wares, or fight our wars.

That was a peculiar notion anyway, more popular with our poets than our soldiers or our missionaries or our traders. We have always been active in the world, but anxious to pretend that we were separate