

The NAFTA offers a positive prototype for those relations. Aid to the world's developing nations has too often realized only small and isolated victories in the war on poverty in the last 50 years. The developing nations increasingly admonish the developed world to realize that, not aid, but trade is the key to a richer future.

Developing countries want the freedom to sell their goods and services on world markets. They want also to be able to buy the goods and services and to attract the investment that the developed world has to offer.

This is the acknowledged key to their future development and prosperity. It is also essential for the developed world's continuing prosperity and to world peace and stability.

Greater trade and greater economic interaction and interdependence can defuse the resentments and envies that have too often been responsible in the past for international disorders ranging from famine to terrorism.

Trade is a powerful antidote to conflict. It is a powerful support to international order. I say unambiguously that free trade policy is good foreign policy.

It is good policy for our relations with our Mexican friends and partners. It is good policy also for our relations with those countries in Latin America and beyond who may join the NAFTA and other market-opening trade agreements in future.

The conservation and protection of our natural resources -- of our air, land and water -- will be another pre-occupation of the twenty-first century. Likewise, the quality of life in the workplace will be a concern of workers and managers everywhere.

The NAFTA breaks new ground in addressing environmental issues in ways never done in any trade agreement before. For example, the NAFTA specifically allows for the inclusion of scientific experts in the settling of trade disputes. It states that NAFTA partners should not lower environmental standards to attract investment.

Above all, the NAFTA recognizes the responsibility of all partners to maintain and improve their environmental standards.

And the NAFTA, in its preamble laying out the broad objectives of the Agreement, confirms the commitment of all three countries to improve working conditions and living standards and to enhance and enforce workers' rights.

Canada is committed to pursuing additional environmental and labour accords in trilateral discussions with Mexico and the United States. These will lead to strengthened environmental co-operation among our countries and to an open dialogue about the workplace in the new North American market.