

IT MAY SURPRISE SOME OF YOU TO LEARN THAT AMONG OECD NATIONS, CANADA IS ONE OF THE MOST DEPENDENT ON TRADE. MORE THAN 30% OF OUR GNP RESULTS FROM FOREIGN TRADE, AND 1 IN 3 JOBS DEPENDS ON IT.

WE IN CANADA BELIEVE FIRMLY THAT IN AN INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD THE BEST ROAD TOWARDS FUTURE ECONOMIC EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT LIES IN GREATER AND MORE LIBERALIZED INTERNATIONAL TRADE. THAT IS WHY WE ARE SO STRONGLY COMMITTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY, KNOWN AS THE URUGUAY ROUND.

AS A NATION EXTREMELY DEPENDENT ON TRADE FOR ITS WELLBEING, CANADA IS VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE REDUCTION OF PROTECTIONISM IN ALL ITS FORMS. IT IS THE TENDENCY TOWARDS PROTECTIONISM, SO POWERFUL IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF OUR SOCIETIES WHICH REPRESENTS THE MAJOR THREAT TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM. WE IN CANADA SEE A SUCCESSFUL GATT ROUND AS THE BEST DEFENCE AGAINST PROTECTIONISM AND UNILATERALISM WHICH EMERGE WHEN THERE ARE LARGE TRADE IMBALANCES, AS IS NOW THE CASE. THE GATT TALKS ARE CRUCIAL TO THE FATE OF TRADING NATIONS LIKE FRANCE AND CANADA BECAUSE THE INTERESTS OF OUR EXPORTERS LIE PRIMARILY IN A HEALTHY MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM, NOT IN REGIONAL OR UNILATERAL INITIATIVES. WE MUST NOT ALLOW THIS HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO SLIP OUT OF OUR HANDS.

BRIEFLY, WE MUST:

- IMPROVE MARKET ACCESS FOR GOODS AND SERVICES;
- DEVELOP RULES FOR AGRICULTURAL TRADE;
- DEVELOP BETTER RULES FOR SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAIL, AS WELL AS FOR TRADE IN SERVICES AND TRADE-RELATED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY; AND
- IMPROVE MEASURES FOR AVOIDING AND RESOLVING TRADE DISPUTES UNDER THE GATT.

THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN THE GATT TALKS MAY VERY WELL BE AGRICULTURAL TRADE. BOTH CANADA AND FRANCE ARE MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS. WE BOTH HAVE A MAJOR STAKE IN ENSURING THAT OUR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND EXPORTERS GET NOT ONLY A FAIR RETURN ON THEIR WORK AND INVESTMENT, BUT ALSO FAIR AND SECURE ACCESS TO EXTERNAL MARKETS.

THE EC HAS ALSO EXPRESSED ITS COMMITMENT TO A SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND, AND IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT CANADA IS WATCHING WITH KEEN INTEREST DEVELOPMENTS HERE IN EUROPE TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT IN 1993 OF A SINGLE MARKET FOR THE FREE FLOW OF GOODS, SERVICES, CAPITAL AND LABOUR. THE UNDERLYING OBJECTIVE OF THE SINGLE MARKET INITIATIVE - TO MAKE WESTERN EUROPE MORE COMPETITIVE AND MORE PRODUCTIVE - ECHOES ONE OF OUR OBJECTIVES IN THE CANADA/USA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, TO MAKE CANADIAN INDUSTRY MORE COMPETITIVE, AND SO WE ARE ENTIRELY SUPPORTIVE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL GOAL HERE IN EUROPE.