

FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS, OUR TRADE HAS GROWN STEADILY AND CANADA HAS REGULARLY HAD A HANDSOME SURPLUS. THERE WAS A DOWNWARD TREND DURING THE RECESSION BUT PROSPECTS ARE GOOD FOR A RECOVERY IN 1984. ALL THE SAME, WE HAVE DESIGNATED BRITAIN A PRIORITY EXPORT MARKET. AN EXPORT MARKET GUIDE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM IS BEING PREPARED BY MY DEPARTMENT. IT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN JUNE AND WILL IDENTIFY A NUMBER OF MARKET OPPORTUNITY SECTORS, IN ORDER TO HELP THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN FOCUSING ITS ATTENTION AND EFFORTS ON WHAT WE JUDGE TO BE THE PRINCIPAL AREAS OF PROMISE.

I KNOW THAT OUR BRITISH FRIENDS PAY THE SAME CLOSE ATTENTION TO THEIR CANADIAN MARKET. EIGHTY PERCENT OF BRITISH EXPORTS TO CANADA LAST YEAR WERE MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS. THEY RANGED FROM SCOTCH WHISKY TO AIRCRAFT ENGINES. THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN OTTAWA AND THE CONSULATE IN HALIFAX AND THOSE IN OTHER MAJOR CANADIAN CITIES DEVOTE A GOOD DEAL OF THEIR EFFORTS TO PROMOTING TRADE. I KNOW THAT PRIME MINISTER THATCHER TOOK TIME DURING HER VISIT TO DO JUST THAT. TWO WEEKS AGO THE BRITISH MINISTER OF TRADE, MR. CHANNON, WAS IN CANADA FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. WE WELCOME THE EFFORT, BECAUSE WE KNOW FULL WELL THAT A ROBUST TRADING RELATIONSHIP IS VITAL TO BOTH COUNTRIES, AND THAT IT CONTRIBUTES TO STRENGTHENING OUR RELATIONS IN OTHER FIELDS.

OUR RELATIONS ARE NOT CONFINED TO WHAT THE TWO CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS DO. BECAUSE OF OUR HISTORY AND OUR FEDERAL CONSTITUTION, SIX OF OUR TEN PROVINCES -- ALBERTA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, NOVA SCOTIA, ONTARIO, QUEBEC AND SASKATCHEWAN -- HAVE REPRESENTATIVES IN LONDON. THEIR ACTIVITIES IN PROMOTING TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMPLEMENT OUR OWN EFFORTS TO NURTURE LASTING AND VIGOROUS LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THERE IS ALSO A HEALTHY, AND RECENTLY RE-INVIGORATED, LINK BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENTARIANS OF CANADA AND OF BRITAIN. A DELEGATION OF BRITISH MPS RECENTLY VISITED OTTAWA. I LOOK FORWARD TO EVEN CLOSER CONTACT BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE TWO PARLIAMENTS AND TO THE BETTER UNDERSTANDING THAT IS BOUND TO FOLLOW. THE CANADIAN BRANCHES OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION HAVE BEEN A PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF CONTACT WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND THAT WORK CERTAINLY OUGHT TO BE ENCOURAGED. THERE HAVE BEEN FREQUENT EXCHANGES OF VIEW ON PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE. AT ONE TIME WHEN I WAS LEADER OF THE HOUSE IN OTTAWA I LED AN