

This must be our first priority.

But resistance to the pressures of protectionism is not sufficient to do the trick alone. As I said earlier, we must move forward. A significant milestone will be reached in November when the GATT will meet at ministerial level. That meeting two months from now presents all of us with a major challenge. It will be important for that meeting to begin to come to grips with a number of problems where agreement has so far eluded us as well as beginning to address the question of how to ensure that the framework of the GATT meeting priorities remains viable throughout the 1980s.

**GATT meeting
priorities**

It might be helpful if I share with you the priorities which Canada will carry into that meeting:

Safeguards agreement — We want to see a system which requires everyone to follow the same rules and which would ensure that exports are not acted against frivolously or unnecessarily. At the same time it clearly must allow emergency actions when these are fully justifiable.

The Dispute Settlement System — This system is critical to the effective enforcement of GATT rights and obligations. We must renew our commitment to make it work effectively as it can only be as good as our political commitment to it.

The emergence of the advanced developing countries — A key priority in the 1980s is to ensure that these countries make a contribution to the international trading framework commensurate with their stake in the system, and also to ensure that their legitimate interests are met.

Agriculture — We should be seeking improved and more balanced rules governing trade in agricultural products. In particular we must seek better discipline over the use of export subsidies. At a time of world food shortages and large government budget deficits, I fail to see how anyone could disagree with the need to strengthen the international framework and co-operation in this area.

Fish — Barriers to trade in fisheries products have not been adequately addressed in the past. Like agriculture we attach a major importance to work in this area.

Strengthening existing GATT codes — The Aircraft Agreement and the Government Procurement Agreement negotiated during the Tokyo Round were innovative and significant in trade terms. We must explore the possibilities for further action in these areas.

Tariff escalation — We continue to look to action to provide better access generally for further processed resource products. The tariff structure of a number of countries continues to operate against resource exporters by limiting their possibilities for