

"new economic order"; almost every nation has been forced to make the critical energy sector an object of political concern.

The addition of the trade promotion and policy functions of the former Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce to the political and economic responsibilities of the Department of External Affairs is one way in which we, in government, are responding to these challenges. In the complex trading environment of today's turbulent world, this reorganization is intended to bring to bear the weight of political relationships in support of our economic and trade work in a more direct and coherent way.

In the final analysis, this reorganization has meant that we will be better able to support and facilitate the work of the private sector, and to increase the success of your endeavours abroad. I can assure you that you will continue to have direct access to our trade officials -- they have not disappeared or been rendered ineffectual simply by virtue of their transfer from one department to another -- and, together, we should be able to give you better service.

Naturally, the Department of External Affairs and our foreign service will continue to devote very considerable resources and effort to promoting the basic national objectives of peace and stability and social progress and justice. We will also continue to develop the political ties and people-to-people relationships and understanding on which all durable and mutually beneficial economic interchange must be based. Without a stable and healthy political environment, none of our endeavours can succeed and none of our developmental objectives can be realized.

Frankly, I am excited by the increased strength and sense of coherence and purpose which this reorganization should bring to our foreign policies; I am convinced that it can only help us in safeguarding and promoting Canada's many political and economic interests internationally. And I think that you, as businessmen, have everything to gain from this development, especially as you look to the exciting prospects for Canadian enterprise in the Asia/Pacific world in the year -- indeed the decade -- ahead. My colleagues and I are eager to work with you in meeting this challenge.

The conference you are concluding today marks a further significant step in the development of a public awareness in Canada of the potential that exists for Canada in expanded relations with our neighbours across the Pacific. The first conference of this kind was held in Vancouver over a year ago and when I spoke there of the Pacific dimension of Canada's foreign policy, I was speaking in a city for which the Pacific is an obvious and immediate reality. The fact that the organizers of this second Pacific Rim Opportunities Conference have chosen Eastern Canada and a city on the Great Lakes as the site for