

to begin to pave the way for the first WTO Ministerial Conference, to be held in Singapore in 1996.

Canada has been working with the United States and Mexico to expand the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] to include Chile and, in view of the difficulties encountered by the U.S. Administration in obtaining from Congress "fast-track" trade negotiating authority, we shall take steps to help achieve Chile's accession to NAFTA as soon as possible. Work has also begun with our partners in the Western Hemisphere to create a broader free trade area no later than 2005. In the Asia-Pacific region, government leaders adopted in Osaka, Japan, a "road map" that will guide the 18 economies of APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum] in achieving free trade in the region by no later than 2010 for developed economies and 2020 for developing economies. More recently, Canada called for the strengthening of transatlantic economic links through further trade and investment liberalization initiatives, leading to eventual transatlantic free trade.

As we look toward the new year, the international trade environment seems poised for additional challenges and opportunities. We shall continue to work with our partners all over the world to open new markets and to break new ground in trade and investment liberalization. We shall also continue to use the Team Canada approach to win new business overseas and thus continue Canada's international expansion, which is so crucial to growth and job creation.