

FOREWORD FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

We are also expanding our Canadian Forces, and we are ensuring that when our military personnel are deployed, they are well equipped to do the job—and to do it as safely as possible. By adding 5,000 new troops and 3,000 new reserves, we are enhancing our ability to address situations of humanitarian catastrophe in a way that will allow Canada to play a leading and lasting role in peace support operations.

And lead we will. For instance, Canada will direct a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar, Afghanistan—just our latest contribution to securing and rebuilding that country. We will maintain our leading role in supporting the strengthening of police capacity in Haiti. We will strongly support renewed efforts toward a just settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and will play an integral part in abetting Palestinian efforts in capacity building and reconstruction. And then there is Darfur, where the suffering continues and the tragedy escalates. The international community has thus far made unacceptable progress toward initiating a multilateral intervention. Canada will work closely with the African Union to improve its ability to restore security and bring stability to the region, and we will do more in the areas of training, equipment and logistical support.

Trade and Commerce

We have benefited enormously from an open economy; we are the world's eighth largest economy and fifth largest trader. From the "outside in," our openness to trade, investment and people brings us cost-effective and competitive industrial inputs and consumer products, new technologies, new research and development, and the human capital we need to fuel our continuing growth. From the "inside out," global markets for our goods, services and investments are a principal engine of our growth, which could not be sustained by our relatively small domestic market of 32 million people.

That is why we continue to place great emphasis on a positive outcome for the Doha Development Agenda of global trade negotiations at the World Trade Organization.

Our strategy for international commerce has moved well beyond simply looking for export markets, though that remains a very important part of what we do. And it has moved beyond simply marketing our natural resources, though that remains a thriving sector. In today's economy, it is ever more important to promote strong international investment and scientific and research relationships around the world. Investment abroad by Canadian companies is of increasing importance to the Canadian economy; the numbers show that trade follows investment, and that means more export-led, high-value jobs in Canada. The future belongs to knowledge-based economies, and steps are being taken now by government and the private and academic sectors to make sure Canada is equipped to benefit.

While the U.S. remains our most important market, Canada will step up its engagement with other mature nations, as well as with those that today are emerging as the global titans of tomorrow. That's why we signed a science and technology agreement with India and launched discussions on new economic frameworks with Japan and Korea. That's why we will undertake market access negotiations with Mercosur in the context of the Free Trade Area of the Americas. And that's why we are pursuing major opportunities with China in tourism, technology and resources, where our expertise and other value-added capabilities make us a formidable global player. The International Policy Statement sets out in more detail what we have done and what we will do to strengthen our commercial relationships with key partners. This is a crucial opportunity and we will not let it pass us by.

International Assistance

Canadians have demonstrated, time and again, a remarkable generosity toward the world's poor and suffering, most recently in the response to last December's Indian Ocean tsunami disaster. Whether as members of religious congregations, as supporters of non-governmental organizations, or as private individuals working and contributing on their own, Canadians have done a great deal to share their good fortune with others.

Those who donate want to know that their contribution is having an effect, that it is improving lives, that it is getting to those who so desperately need it. The same is true of our government and its international assistance programs. We are motivated by the imperative to ensure our aid reaches the people who need it and is not wasted on unnecessary overhead.