

THERE SEEMS, IN FACT, AN ENCOURAGING SENSE OF OPTIMISM THAT REAL BENEFITS WILL ACCRUE TO CANADIANS AND THAT A FRAMEWORK HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WHICH SHOULD FAVOUR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

MANY BUSINESSMEN HAVE, NOT SURPRISINGLY, RESERVED THEIR DETAILED JUDGEMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT MANY IMPLICATIONS, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, WILL TAKE TIME TO SURFACE. BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE GENEVA RESULTS REPRESENT A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. MANY HAVE ALSO COMMENTED ON THE VALUE OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS THROUGHOUT THE MTN, INCLUDING ITS CONFIDENTIAL ASPECTS, AND HAVE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PRECEDENT WILL BE FOLLOWED IN THE FUTURE WHEN SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION OR NEGOTIATION.

NOT SURPRISINGLY ALSO, THERE HAVE BEEN COMMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT CANADA WENT OR MAY HAVE GONE TOO FAR IN MAKING PARTICULAR TARIFF OR NON-TARIFF CONCESSIONS (FOR EXAMPLE RESPECTING TARIFF REDUCTIONS ON CERTAIN PAPER PRODUCTS, MEATS, AUTOMOTIVE PARTS AND PARTS FOR CERTAIN APPLIANCES). BUT SO FAR AT LEAST THESE REACTIONS HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH IN THE MINORITY. MORE COMMON EXPRESSIONS OF DISAPPOINTMENT RELATE TO OUR TRADING PARTNERS NOT HAVING BEEN PREPARED TO GO FURTHER IN MAKING CONCESSIONS OF INTEREST TO CANADA. I HAVE MENTIONED EARLIER A NUMBER OF SUCH AREAS.

MORE POSITIVE REACTIONS TO DATE SEEM PARTICULARLY CURRENT AMONG PRODUCERS OF INORGANIC CHEMICALS, PAINT MANUFACTURERS, TEXTILE AND APPAREL FIRMS, DISTILLERS, PLASTIC FABRICATORS AND, ESPECIALLY, THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY WHICH SEES THE AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN CIVIL AIRCRAFT AS A REAL PLUS WHICH SHOULD STRENGTHEN ALREADY STRONG EXPORT MARKETS. AND WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE FROM OUR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS.