

Canada's case is special. We are next door to a powerful economy. We have abundant resources, immense size, a scattered population and striking regional differences in production and consumption.

We are unique, but we are not exempt from the new economic pressures of the modern world. We have to compete, and the economic priority of the Government has been to make Canada competitive.

We are expanding trade bilaterally with the United States, and multilaterally by leadership in the latest Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN), launched just over 18 months ago in Uruguay and designed to improve and strengthen the international rules of trade.

At the same time, the Government has held the line against protectionism in Canada. We have cut back inflation and cut the deficit. We have reformed taxes and financial institutions, reduced the regulatory burden on the private sector, and turned from screening foreign investment to encouraging it. We have started to overhaul policies affecting research and development and established new agencies for regional development. Those are actions at home to make Canada competitive.

Internationally, we pursue the same goals.

Prime Minister Mulroney is an active leader in the Economic Summit which he will chair in Toronto in June. We have achieved Canada's membership in the Group of Seven (G-7) Finance Ministers. The Prime Minister has put agricultural reform at the center of international economic discussions and we are one of the most active members of the Cairns Group of Fair Traders in Agriculture.

And we are trying to play a constructive role in resolving the debt problems of major debtors, notably in Latin America, and of the least developed countries.

The Economic Summit is the leading international forum where the leaders of major countries can work together. The summit's primary benefit is when it can co-ordinate the domestic economic policies of the major western economies. The Summit can also inspire action in other international bodies and broaden public awareness of major economic issues.