

Statement

Minister for  
International  
Trade



Discours

Ministre du  
Commerce  
extérieur

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

NOTES FOR A SPEECH

BY THE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE,

JOHN C. CROSBIE,

TO THE

FRANCE-CANADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PARIS, FRANCE

October 18, 1989.

PRESIDENT MAYOUX, MR. AMBASSADOR, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN - BONJOUR.

C'EST UN GRAND PLASIR POUR MOI D'ETRE ICI EN FRANCE ET DE M'ADRESSER A CE GROUPE PRESTIGIEUX. THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT TO FRANCE AS CANADA'S MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE. I AM LEADING A DELEGATION OF SENIOR EXECUTIVES FROM NINE OF CANADA'S LEADING HIGH TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES. ALTHOUGH WE MISSED YOUR EXCITING CELEBRATION OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTION THIS SUMMER, WE HAVE COME TO FRANCE EXPECTING TO FIND A BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT EMBODYING THOSE WONDERFUL IDEALS OF LIBERTE, FRATERNITE ET EGALITE. SO FAR WE HAVE NOT BEEN DISAPPOINTED.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, I AM FROM NEWFOUNDLAND, OR TERRE NEUVE, WHICH WE NEWFOUNDLANDERS FONDLY REFER TO AS THE ROCK. WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNIVERSARY TO CELEBRATE AS WELL. IT WILL SOON BE 500 YEARS AGO THAT JOHN CABOT, ALSO KNOWN AS JEAN CABOT, SAILED TO NEWFOUNDLAND AND DISCOVERED THE GREAT FISHERIES RESOURCE KNOWN AS THE GRAND BANKS. I WILL RETURN TO THIS THEME A LITTLE LATER.

NOUS NOUS RENCONTRONS PENDANT UNE PERIODE TRES MOUVEMENTEE. THE CANADA/USA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IS NOW IN PLACE, THE SINGLE MARKET OF EUROPE 1992 IS IN PREPARATION, AND THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS ARE REACHING THE SUBSTANTIVE STAGE.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TODAY --

- (1) TO SET OUT FOR YOU CANADA'S KEY INTERNATIONAL TRADE OBJECTIVES, IN PARTICULAR OUR STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE CURRENT URUGUAY ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.
- (2) TO DESCRIBE FOR YOU CANADA'S KEEN INTEREST IN THE EFFORTS UNDERWAY HERE IN EUROPE TO CREATE A SINGLE UNIFIED MARKET BY 1993 AND TO ALERT YOU TO SOME OF OUR CONCERNS, AND
- (3) TO COMMENT ON THE GROWING TRADE, ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND FRANCE, THE INCREASING GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THAT COOPERATION AND TO ASSURE YOU THERE ARE MORE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH ARE THERE TO BE EXPLOITED BY ENTREPRENEURS SUCH AS YOURSELVES, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE CANADA/USA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.

IT MAY SURPRISE SOME OF YOU TO LEARN THAT AMONG OECD NATIONS, CANADA IS ONE OF THE MOST DEPENDENT ON TRADE. MORE THAN 30% OF OUR GNP RESULTS FROM FOREIGN TRADE, AND 1 IN 3 JOBS DEPENDS ON IT.

WE IN CANADA BELIEVE FIRMLY THAT IN AN INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD THE BEST ROAD TOWARDS FUTURE ECONOMIC EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT LIES IN GREATER AND MORE LIBERALIZED INTERNATIONAL TRADE. THAT IS WHY WE ARE SO STRONGLY COMMITTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY, KNOWN AS THE URUGUAY ROUND.

AS A NATION EXTREMELY DEPENDENT ON TRADE FOR ITS WELLBEING, CANADA IS VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE REDUCTION OF PROTECTIONISM IN ALL ITS FORMS. IT IS THE TENDENCY TOWARDS PROTECTIONISM, SO POWERFUL IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF OUR SOCIETIES WHICH REPRESENTS THE MAJOR THREAT TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM. WE IN CANADA SEE A SUCCESSFUL GATT ROUND AS THE BEST DEFENCE AGAINST PROTECTIONISM AND UNILATERALISM WHICH EMERGE WHEN THERE ARE LARGE TRADE IMBALANCES, AS IS NOW THE CASE. THE GATT TALKS ARE CRUCIAL TO THE FATE OF TRADING NATIONS LIKE FRANCE AND CANADA BECAUSE THE INTERESTS OF OUR EXPORTERS LIE PRIMARILY IN A HEALTHY MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM, NOT IN REGIONAL OR UNILATERAL INITIATIVES. WE MUST NOT ALLOW THIS HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO SLIP OUT OF OUR HANDS.

BRIEFLY, WE MUST:

- IMPROVE MARKET ACCESS FOR GOODS AND SERVICES;
- DEVELOP RULES FOR AGRICULTURAL TRADE;
- DEVELOP BETTER RULES FOR SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAIL, AS WELL AS FOR TRADE IN SERVICES AND TRADE-RELATED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY; AND
- IMPROVE MEASURES FOR AVOIDING AND RESOLVING TRADE DISPUTES UNDER THE GATT.

THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN THE GATT TALKS MAY VERY WELL BE AGRICULTURAL TRADE. BOTH CANADA AND FRANCE ARE MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS. WE BOTH HAVE A MAJOR STAKE IN ENSURING THAT OUR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND EXPORTERS GET NOT ONLY A FAIR RETURN ON THEIR WORK AND INVESTMENT, BUT ALSO FAIR AND SECURE ACCESS TO EXTERNAL MARKETS.

THE EC HAS ALSO EXPRESSED ITS COMMITMENT TO A SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND, AND IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT CANADA IS WATCHING WITH KEEN INTEREST DEVELOPMENTS HERE IN EUROPE TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT IN 1993 OF A SINGLE MARKET FOR THE FREE FLOW OF GOODS, SERVICES, CAPITAL AND LABOUR. THE UNDERLYING OBJECTIVE OF THE SINGLE MARKET INITIATIVE - TO MAKE WESTERN EUROPE MORE COMPETITIVE AND MORE PRODUCTIVE - ECHOES ONE OF OUR OBJECTIVES IN THE CANADA/USA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, TO MAKE CANADIAN INDUSTRY MORE COMPETITIVE, AND SO WE ARE ENTIRELY SUPPORTIVE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL GOAL HERE IN EUROPE.

THOSE OF US OBSERVING THE 1993 PROCESS HOPE VERY MUCH THAT IN BUILDING A EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MORE ABLE TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION, BARRIERS WILL NOT BE ERECTED AGAINST NON-MEMBER STATES INADVERTENTLY OR OTHERWISE. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY STATEMENTS BY EUROPEAN LEADERS THAT THE EUROPE OF 1993 WILL REMAIN COMMITTED TO TRADE LIBERALIZATION, AND WILL NOT SUCCUMB TO PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES. WE BELIEVE THAT A EUROPE MORE OPEN TO TECHNOLOGY, INVESTMENT AND TRADE WILL BE A STRONGER, MORE COMPETITIVE AND ULTIMATELY MORE SUCCESSFUL EUROPE.

NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE CONCERNED BY SOME TRENDS WHICH SEEM TO THREATEN THE OBJECTIVE OF REMOVING BARRIERS TO TRADE. WE ARE PARTICULARLY WATCHING SEVERAL ISSUES: RULES OF ORIGIN, LOCAL CONTENT REGULATIONS; AND ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS. WHEN THESE ARE FINALIZED THEY COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON CANADIAN EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY, NOW WORTH OVER 11 BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY.

THERE WAS RECENTLY A CASE WITH RESPECT TO EC RULES IN WHICH FRANCE HAS BEEN OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO CANADA. THE COMMUNITY HAS JUST ADOPTED A DIRECTIVE WITH RESPECT TO TELEVISION. IT SETS A MINIMUM QUOTA FOR EUROPEAN CONTENT IN TELEVISION PROGRAMMING OF 51 PERCENT WHERE POSSIBLE. WE UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR THIS QUOTA. CANADA TOO HAS DOMESTIC CONTENT RULES FOR TELEVISION. FOR A TIME HOWEVER, IT APPEARED THAT THE EC DIRECTIVE WOULD UNDERMINE THE 20 YEAR OLD CO-PRODUCTION AGREEMENT WE HAVE WITH FRANCE. LAST YEAR OUR FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCERS DID 700 MILLION FRANCS OF BUSINESS TOGETHER MAKING CO-PRODUCTIONS. THIS PROFITABLE RELATIONSHIP WAS THREATENED. FOLLOWING INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS HOWEVER, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT FRANCE WILL MODEL ITS OWN LEGISLATION IN SUCH A WAY THAT CO-PRODUCTIONS WITH CANADA WILL ENJOY CONTINUED ACCESS TO FRENCH AIR-WAVES. THIS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE DANGERS THAT CAN ARISE WHEN NEW RULES ARE BEING MADE AND ALSO DEMONSTRATES THAT WITH GOOD-WILL AND UNDERSTANDING, PROBLEMS CAN BE OVERCOME.

TOMORROW AT THE MEETING OF THE CANADA-FRANCE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION I WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET TRADE MINISTER RAUSCH AND REVIEW WITH HIM THE STATE OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND FRANCE.

I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF MY OBSERVATIONS ON OUR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, WHICH SHOW SIGNS OF GREATER ACTIVITY, PARTICULARLY ON THE INVESTMENT SIDE, AND TO TELL YOU WHY I THINK THEY HOLD CONSIDERABLE PROMISE.

WE ARE NOW ENJOYING A RENEWED CLIMATE OF COOPERATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND FRANCE AND ARE ALSO SEEING ENCOURAGING SIGNS IN BILATERAL TRADE FLOWS. LAST YEAR, TOTAL TRADE BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES REACHED ALMOST 20 BILLION FRANCS (4 BILLION CANADIAN DOLLARS), A 30% INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR. A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THIS INCREASE WAS DUE TO THE PURCHASE OF 12 AIRBUSES BY THE CANADIAN AIRLINE, WARDAIR.

ON THE INVESTMENT FRONT WE CAN POINT TO EVEN GREATER PROGRESS. FRENCH INVESTMENT IN CANADA LAST YEAR TOTALLED 380 MILLION DOLLARS, AN INCREASE OF ALMOST 60% OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR. FRANCE NOW HAS OVER 2 BILLION DOLLARS INVESTED IN CANADA WHERE SOME 300 FIRMS ARE FRENCH CONTROLLED. CANADIAN INVESTMENT IN FRANCE EXCEEDS 650 MILLION CANADIAN DOLLARS MAKING CANADA THE 13TH LARGEST INVESTOR IN FRANCE.

THE INVESTMENT TREND IS DEFINITELY UP. THIS REFLECTS DECISIONS BY BUSINESS PEOPLE, PROBABLY MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY, WHO ARE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE AND SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE HOWEVER THAT EVEN MORE CAN BE ACHIEVED.

THOSE OF YOU CONTEMPLATING INVESTMENT IN CANADA SHOULD REALIZE THAT WHEN YOU COME TO CANADA, YOU NOW HAVE A MORE PROMISING ENVIRONMENT AS A RESULT OF THE CANADA/USA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT. THE CANADIAN ECONOMY IS BECOMING STRONGER, MORE EFFICIENT, AND MORE COMPETITIVE. THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT MAKES CANADA A MORE ATTRACTIVE AND DYNAMIC ECONOMIC PARTNER. WE NOW ENJOY NOT ONLY A WEALTH OF NATURAL RESOURCES, A PRODUCTIVE AND RELIABLE LABOUR FORCE, AND A HIGH TECHNOLOGY ENVIRONMENT BUT ALSO ENSURED ACCESS TO A WEALTHY CONSUMER MARKET OF 275 MILLION. I WILL REFRAIN FROM SINGING THE PRAISES OF THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT TOO LOUDLY. SUFFICE IT TO SAY, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE HAVE A GOOD AGREEMENT WHICH HAS IMPORTANT FAVOURABLE IMPLICATIONS FOR CANADA. FURTHERMORE, IT BREAKS NEW GROUND IN SEVERAL AREAS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF GATT NEGOTIATIONS.

FRANCE IS THE WORLD'S FIFTH LARGEST ECONOMY. CANADA IS THE EIGHTH. AND YET, CANADA ONLY RANKS AS FRANCE'S 25TH SUPPLIER OF GOODS. THIS INDICATES TO ME THAT MORE CAN BE DONE. CANADIAN FIRMS WOULD LIKE TO DO MORE BUSINESS WITH FRANCE. THAT IS WHY I AM HERE -- WITH A TRADE MISSION. EACH OF THE NINE COMPANIES ON THE MISSION IS A LEADER IN ITS FIELD. FROM AIR TRANSPORT AND FIREFIGHTING TO SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONICS, INSTRUMENTATION AND IMAGE PROCESSING, THEY PROVIDE QUALITY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES AT COMPETITIVE PRICES.

CANADA HAS MUCH MORE TO OFFER. I TRAVELLED TO FRANCE IN A CANADIAN SHORT TAKE OFF AND LANDING AIRCRAFT, THE DASH-8, WHICH HAS GENERATED CONSIDERABLE INTERNATIONAL INTEREST AS A COMMUTER AIRCRAFT CAPABLE OF SERVING URBAN CENTERS. CANADIAN COMPANIES HAVE CREATED SPECIAL NICHES IN WHICH THEY HAVE EXCELLED, THE DASH-8 IS ONE EXAMPLE. THE CANADAIR WATER BOMBER IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE. SPAIN HAS DECIDED TO EXPAND ITS CANADAIR FLEET TO 25 AND RECENTLY SIGNED A 1 BILLION FRANC PURCHASE CONTRACT.

WE ARE PLEASED GENERALLY WITH THE GROWING COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA IN THE AERONAUTICAL SECTOR. AEROSPATIALE, ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING AEROSPACE COMPANIES, HAS CHOSEN CANADAIR AS A PARTNER TO BUILD THE NEW AIRBUS A330-A340. STATE-OF-THE-ART KNOW-HOW AND TECHNOLOGY CAN ALSO BE FOUND IN OUR SMALLER AEROSPACE COMPANIES. FOR EXAMPLE, VIRTUAL PROTOTYPE A SMALL COMPANY FROM MONTREAL, SELLS MOST OF ITS HIGH-TECH CONTROL AND DISPLAY SYSTEMS TO FRANCE. CANADA'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY HAS UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTED TO THIS INCREASED COOPERATION IN THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY.

IN A RECENT DEVELOPMENT, I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE CANADIAN FIRM BOMBARDIER, AS A PARTNER OF THE EUROSHUTTLE CONSORTIUM, OBTAINED THE CONTRACT TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT THE TRAIN CARS WHICH WILL TRANSIT THE EUROTUNNEL. BOMBARDIER HAS SINCE ANNOUNCED AN AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE ANF-INDUSTRIE, THE FRENCH MEMBER OF THE CONSORTIUM. THIS MEANS THAT THESE FIRMS WILL PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN THE EUROPEAN TRANSPORT INDUSTRY IN THE YEARS TO COME.

HERE IN FRANCE I GET THE SAME SENSE THAT I GET IN CANADA: THAT THERE IS A NEW BREED OF ENTREPRENEUR AND BUSINESS LEADER - BOLDER MORE ADVENTURESOME PERHAPS THAN THOSE WHO FORGED OUR EARLIER BILATERAL CONTACTS. FRENCH ENTREPRENEURS SEEM TO BE REALIZING THAT WHILE THERE ARE STRONG TIES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN QUEBEC, THERE ARE ALSO OPPORTUNITIES ELSEWHERE IN CANADA. WHILE THERE ARE TRADITIONAL AREAS OF COOPERATION, THERE ARE PERHAPS EVEN GREATER ONES IN NEW TECHNOLOGIES. IT IS REFRESHING TO SEE FIRMS FROM TORONTO, THE HOME OF NORTHERN TELECOM, AND FLORENCEVILLE, NEW BRUNSWICK, THE HOME OF MCCAIN'S FOODS, MAKING INROADS IN FRANCE. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT IS THE WAY IT SHOULD BE. INCREASED CONTACT WITH ANY ONE CANADIAN PROVINCE WILL ONLY, I THINK, CREATE GROWING INTEREST IN OTHERS. PROOF OF THIS IS THAT LATER THIS WEEK SOME 25 COMPANIES FROM ALL REGIONS OF CANADA WILL BE VISITING THE EQUIP-AUTO TRADE SHOW.

THIS BROADER APPROACH REFLECTS A NEW INTEREST AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL IN BOTH COUNTRIES TO EXPAND CONTACTS TO ALL REGIONS AND ALL PROVINCES. TWO WEEKS AGO, PREMIER MCKENNA OF NEW BRUNSWICK WAS HERE, FOLLOWING VISITS EARLIER IN THE YEAR BY PREMIER BOURASSA OF QUEBEC AND PREMIER PETERSON OF ONTARIO. A DELEGATION FROM RHONE-ALPES WILL VISIT ONTARIO IN THE COMING MONTHS. THE CANADA/FRANCE RELATIONSHIP NOW ENCOMPASSES ALL OF CANADA FROM COAST TO COAST, AND EVEN TAKES PLACE IN BOTH OF CANADA'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGES. (COMME VOUS VOYEZ.) THIS IS A DEVELOPMENT WHICH WE HEARTILY WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE, FOR IT HOLDS THE POSSIBILITY OF GREATLY EXPANDED AND MORE DIVERSIFIED ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

IN FACT, THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS JUST DEVELOPED A MAJOR NEW TRADE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY CALLED GOING GLOBAL, WHICH INCLUDES TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES TO MAKE CANADA EVEN MORE INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE IN THE 1990'S. WE INTEND TO CARRY OUT THIS NEW STRATEGY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA'S PROVINCES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, CANADA'S NEW TRADE DEVELOPMENT POLICY IS DESIGNED TO HELP CANADIAN FIRMS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BURGEONING ECONOMIC PROSPECTS IN ASIA-PACIFIC AS WELL AS POST-1992 EUROPEAN MARKETS.

NOT ONLY HAS CANADA COME TO TERMS WITH INTERDEPENDENCE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, WE ARE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS THAT WILL GIVE CANADIAN FIRMS THE GLOBAL REACH THEY NEED TO SUCCEED IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE WORLD ECONOMY.

IN NEWFOUNDLAND, THE PROPOSED HIBERNIA OFFSHORE OIL PROJECT HAS GENERATED INTEREST AMONG SEVERAL FRENCH FIRMS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND THE CONSORTIUM OF OIL COMPANIES, LED BY MOBIL OIL, ALL CONTINUE TO BE COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HIBERNIA RESERVES. THE PROJECT, ESTIMATED TO COST 5.2 BILLION DOLLARS, WILL OFFER SOME VERY ATTRACTIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. WHILE I AM ON THE SUBJECT OF NEWFOUNDLAND, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES -- BECAUSE THE TWO ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED.

ONE OF MY OBJECTIVES DURING MY VISIT TO EUROPE - IN LONDON, BONN, COLOGNE AND NOW PARIS, IS TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF EUROPEANS THE SERIOUS OVER-FISHING OF COD AND OTHER GROUND FISH BY FLEETS FROM EC COUNTRIES OPERATING IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OFF NEWFOUNDLAND.

THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERY IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S PREMIER RENEWABLE RESOURCES. THOSE RESOURCES WERE SEVERELY DEPLETED BY EUROPEAN AND ASIAN FLEETS FROM THE 1950'S TO THE 1970'S.

IN 1979, TWELVE ATLANTIC FISHING NATIONS FORMED NAFO, THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION, TO ENSURE GOOD CONSERVATION AND RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES RESOURCES IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC.

TOWARDS THIS END, NAFO REDUCED CATCHES TO ALLOW REGENERATION OF DEPLETED FISH STOCKS AND TO PROVIDE FOR A LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE FISHERY. UNTIL 1986, THERE WAS A GENUINE AND OFTEN PAINFUL COMMITMENT BY ALL NAFO MEMBERS TO THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES ADOPTED BY THAT ORGANIZATION. HOWEVER, SINCE 1986 AND THE ACCESSION OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, THE EC HAS BROKEN WITH THIS POLICY OF SUPPORT AND ADHERENCE TO NAFO DECISIONS. SINCE 1986, WHILE NAFO-SET QUOTAS FOR THE EC HAVE TOTALLED 78,200 TONNES, THE EC HAS SET QUOTAS FOR ITSELF TOTALLING 540,000 TONNES AND HAS HARVESTED A TOTAL OF 410,000 TONNES OF FISH FROM THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC.

EXCESSIVE CATCHES BY SPAIN AND PORTUGAL ARE PART OF THE PROBLEM, BUT SO IS THEIR HARVESTING OF IMMATURE FISH. A RECENT RANDOM SAMPLE OF FLATFISH IN THE HOLD OF A SPANISH TRAWLER YIELDED 275 FISH WEIGHING 51 KILOGRAMS. THE AVERAGE WEIGHT OF THOSE FISH WAS 187 GRAMS. THEIR AVERAGE LENGTH WAS 17 CENTIMETERS. THIS SORT OF HARVESTING CAN BE DISASTROUS FOR THE FUTURE.

OVERFISHING IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC IS DAMAGING AN IMPORTANT WORLD RESOURCE, HARMING CANADIAN FISHERMEN, HARMING FISHERMEN FROM OTHER NAFO MEMBER STATES AND, ULTIMATELY, HARMING EUROPEAN FISHERMEN.

THIS IS REALLY A PROBLEM OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, WHICH THE BRUNDTLAND COMMISSION DEFINED AS:

"DEVELOPMENT THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE ABILITY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO MEET THEIR OWN NEEDS."

THROUGH THE ACTIONS OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE FLEETS, THE EC IS COMPROMISING THE ABILITY OF PRESENT, AS WELL AS FUTURE, GENERATIONS TO HARVEST THESE FISHERIES RESOURCES IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY.

CANADA AND FRANCE SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS SET OUT IN THE BRUNDTLAND REPORT. FOR EXAMPLE, CANADA AND FRANCE ARE AMONG THE NATIONS WHICH SIGNED THE HAGUE DECLARATION IN MARCH, CALLING FOR STRONGER INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

WE JOIN WITH OTHER NATIONS IN OUR SHARED CONCERN ABOUT ISSUES SUCH AS DEPLETION OF THE OZONE LAYER, THE DESTRUCTION OF TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS AND DESERTIFICATION. OVERFISHING IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC IS A PROBLEM TO ADD TO THIS LIST.

CANADA IS SEEKING THE SUPPORT OF FRANCE IN PERSUADING THE EC TO SUPPORT AND ADHERE TO THE DECISIONS OF NAFO, THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THESE RESOURCES.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH THE THOUGHT THAT GIVEN THE TRANSFORMATIONS UNDERWAY HERE IN EUROPE IN ANTICIPATION OF 1993, AND IN CANADA AS A RESULT OF THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, WE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON. THERE IS A DEFINITE SENSE OF ENERGY AND ACTIVITY IN EUROPE AS INDUSTRY PREPARES FOR 1993, AS COMPANIES MERGE AND ACQUIRE NEW PARTNERS. THERE ARE AGGRESSIVE AND CAPABLE CANADIAN FIRMS FROM VANCOUVER TO MONTREAL, FROM QUEBEC CITY TO ST. JOHN'S WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF EXPERTISE AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY READY AND EAGER TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION HERE IN EUROPE USING FRANCE AS A BASE. I WOULD HOPE THAT ENTERPRISING FRENCH COMPANIES INTERESTED IN THE NORTH AMERICAN MARKET WILL ALSO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE SPECIAL ADVANTAGES WHICH CANADA OFFERS AS A PLACE TO ESTABLISH OPERATIONS.



THERE WAS A CORSICAN WHO WENT ON TO GREATNESS IN FRANCE WHO URGED - TOUJOURS L'AUDACE. IF WE SHOW A BIT MORE AUDACITY I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT TRADE, INVESTMENT AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL GROW AND FLOURISH AS NEVER BEFORE.

MERCI.