The trade policy goal on which we should set our sights is freedom of international trade on the part of the world's economically advanced countries and regional instrumentalities, accomplished in accordance with a negotiated timetable and providing for appropriate differences in phasing to reflect the capabilities of specific countries and specific types of production. Setting our sights on this objective and identifying ourselves unmistakably with its implementation is the route of maximum effectiveness in overcoming the many obstacles that made the very real achievements of the Kennedy Round considerably less than the goals considered a few short years ago to be essential (and which are still essential) to our national interest. A clear national commitment to this long-term objective stands the best chance of overcoming the short-term impediments to continuing genuine progress in liberalizing world trade.

Pointing the way to this long-range goal in this vital area of both foreign and domestic policy is of great importance to all sectors of our highly productive economy, and not just in terms of their stake in export expansion. As entrepreneurs in manufacturing, mining, and agriculture make decisions that must continually be made with respect to investments, pricing, sales promotion, and design, and all the other decisions so essential to effective business planning, it is important for those who make these decisions to take appropriate account of their government's long-term policy with respect to our trade with the rest of the world. A policy tending toward trade restriction, or indicating a posture of even temporary uncertainty regarding future policy, will tend to encourage efforts to impose restrictions on trade and to rely on such restrictions, present or hoped for, instead of pursuing efforts to generate the best kinds of job opportunities and the highest levels of economic performance of which a free enterprise economy is capable.

Pointing the way to these new goals of freer world trade is also essential at this time to the scores of countries with which we trade, and whose economic strength and cooperation are essential to the achievement of our highest international objectives in the world at large. The message from America to nations at all levels of economic development should not reflect uncertainty regarding the future course of American policy, and it should certainly not indicate any possibility of this country returning to points of no return we wisely decided to pass so long ago.

The economically advanced countries should know where we stand and the direction we intend to take, as they proceed with their own policy planning, in some cases as part of regional free trade communities. The clear determination of the United States to continue to progress toward freer trade, and even to accelerate progress in this direction, will tend to influence private and governmental decisions in those areas in ways that accelerate sound economic growth, raise living standards, and expand markets for producers everywhere, including our own. Convincing evidence of our own determination to cooperate in reducing artificial barriers to world trade is the policy declaration best calculated to stimulate other economically advanced nations and regional instrumentalities to liberalize foreign access to their own internal markets. And, working together in this way, the