

Canada must find more markets to compete, Clark says

By BRIAN MACLEOD
The Herald

Canada will have to compete with emerging Asian nations if it hopes to maintain a strong foothold in the international market place, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark said Thursday.

Mr. Clark told a room full of Progressive Conservative members at a fundraising dinner at the North Halton Golf and Country Club that Canada's huge debt grew out of Liberal mismanagement of the economy, that Japan may become "the economic superpower of the next century," and that the Soviet Union has "a very interesting and serious paradox" in its dealings with the Baltic states.



JOE CLARK

"I think we have overcome many of the self-imposed obstacles that grew out of the Liberal years," Mr. Clark told party faithful.

"It was a great irony that some of the Canadian leaders of (the 1970s and '80s) would talk enthusiastically about the global village and then go out and put up walls around Canada."

Turning his attention to the global economy, Mr. Clark said Japanese business leaders are soon going to expect other countries to learn how to deal with them on their own grounds - in their own language and with Japanese customs in mind.

"At some point, the Japanese will start to expect those with whom they deal to respect more fully their culture and customs, to understand their language and to adapt to them rather than them adjusting to us," said Mr. Clark.

But Japan isn't the only emerging economic force Canada will have to compete with, said Mr. Clark. New markets in Latin America will represent 600 million people by the year 2000 and India alone will have a middle class of 250 million people by 2005, he said. "Those markets are worth developing and developing those markets means developing those countries," he said, explaining Canada's international aid program.

"We have to recognize that foreign aid is not charity to help others, but an essential investment in the security, the markets and the quality of life in Canada, said Mr. Clark.

Between 1981 and 1987 Canada lost over \$24 billion in exports to countries because they can no longer purchase Canadian goods due to debt, drought, high energy costs or low commodity prices, he said. That represents 130,000 lost jobs for Canadians and an additional 200,000 potential jobs will be lost if Canada doesn't act within the next 10 years, he said.

The external affairs minister also commented briefly on the tensions between the Soviet Union and the Baltic States. Canada has "never accepted ... Soviet sovereignty over the Baltics and we never will," he said.

"It is a very interesting and serious paradox and difficult dilemma that the man most responsible for promoting democracy and economic reform in the Soviet Union is now being challenged not only by hardliners but by those who wish him to move further and faster," Mr. Clark said of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Mr. Gorbachev has a clear vision of where he wants to take Soviet foreign policy and how he wishes to re-cast East-West relations. On economic policy, while the Soviets are encountering difficulties getting to a pricing mechanism, they at least know where they want to end up. But on the issue of nationalism, they appear to have no clear view as to what they must do. And they have none of the habits of compromise and negotiation, which multiculturalism societies can develop when they are free."

GO may come to Acton

The long snake of cars that winds down Highway 7 from Acton to Georgetown during the early morning and back again during the late afternoon could end up quite a bit shorter.

"There is no doubt about it, the Acton people are almost assured" to have a stop, said North Halton MPP Walt Elliot Monday morning at Halton Region.

This claim follows in the wake of a recent provincial government budget announcement that the Georgetown line will be expanded to Guelph, and Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy's promise the Region will do its "utmost" to assure an Acton stop is created.

The chairman made his comments last Wednesday after being questioned by Halton Hills Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette

about the possibility of an Acton stop, during the Region's planning and public works meeting.

Coun. Bonnette predicted between 20 and 30 per cent of the vehicles parked in the Georgetown GO train station parking lot are owned by Acton residents.

"I would be elated if it (the stop) happens; I could write a book on the trials and tribulations of trying to get a stop," he said after the meeting.

Mr. Pomeroy gave his personal commitment that a stop will be established but he also said the ultimate responsibility rests with the province.

Chairman Pomeroy plans to

meet with the province's Minister of Transportation William Wyre within the next two weeks to discuss the idea.

Before an Acton stop can be established GO has to buy tracks from Canadian National Railways and at this time there have been no in-depth talks between the two groups, said Chairman Pomeroy.

But Mr. Pomeroy said the province is expanding GO service to fill the void left by federal government cutbacks to VIA Rail.

If the Georgetown line is expanded to include Acton, Coun. Bonnette speculated that would mean the end to a private application to establish rail service to Acton.

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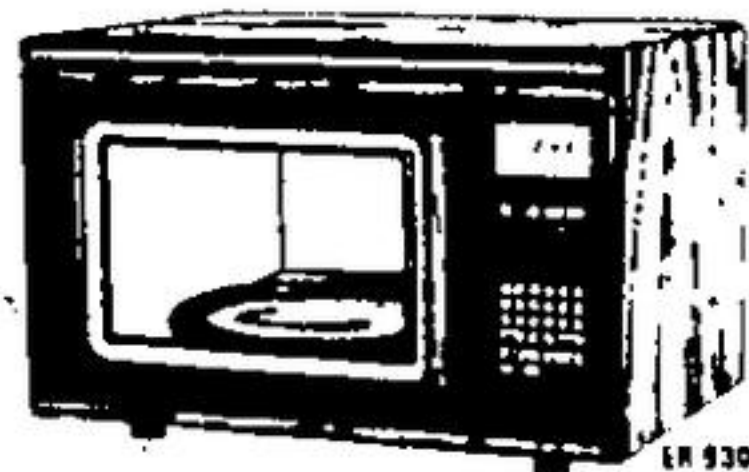


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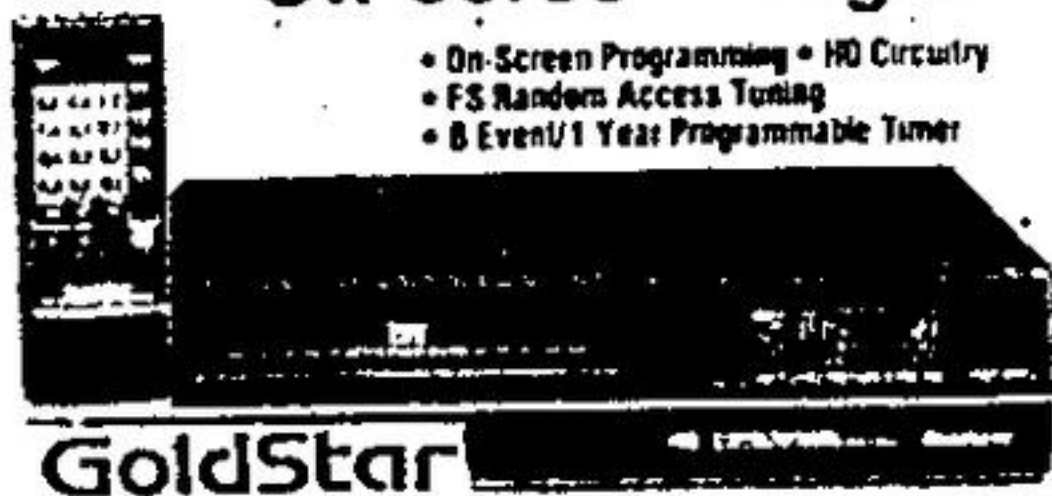
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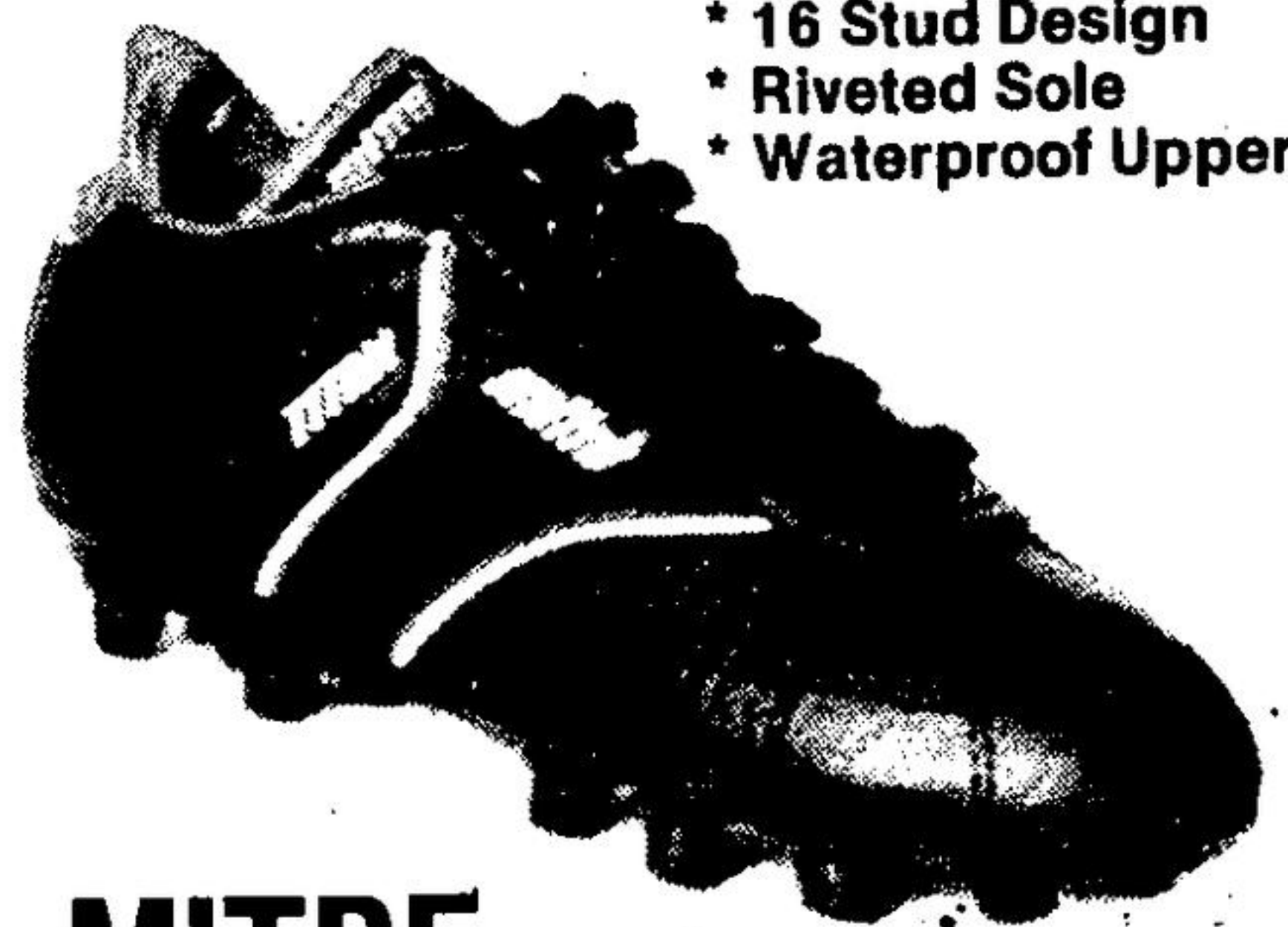
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