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### **SUTHERLAND ELECTED TNC CHAIRMAN**

The new GATT Director-General, Mr. Peter Sutherland, promised to "leave no stone unturned" in trying to bring the Uruguay Round negotiations to a balanced conclusion before the end of the year. He made this pledge after the Trade Negotiations Committee, which oversees the Round, elected him by acclamation on 5 July as its Chairman at officials level to succeed the former Director-General, Mr. Arthur Dunkel.

Mr. Sutherland was elected Chairman in his personal capacity. As Director-General, he heads the Group of Negotiations on Goods. The TNC oversees negotiations in both trade in goods and trade in services.

The Chairman of the Contracting Parties, Ambassador B.K. Zutshi, who initially chaired the meeting, noted that one principal criterion of GATT members in their search for a new Director-General was finding a person who had the ability and the capacity to facilitate an early success to the Round. "In Mr. Sutherland, we have found that person," Ambassador Zutshi said.

Referring to the G-7 Meeting, Mr. Sutherland said "the next days would be of considerable importance to the conclusion of the Uruguay Round". But "whatever results from the Tokyo Summit, the function of concluding the Round is with us." He added: "one of the defining moments of the latter half of this century would be bringing the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion - I gladly share this responsibility, and I gladly share it with you."

The new Chairman cautioned that he was "at best a facilitator - not a magician. It would be impossible to organize deals if the deal-makers - that is, you, the governments - are not ready or willing; our partnership will have to be, therefore, a two-way street," he said.

The Chairman underlined that the "acid test of the success or failure of efforts in the capitals to bring the Round back on track will have to be made at the multilateral negotiating table. The concluding deals - or the end game - will have to be played out in Geneva, not elsewhere."

Mr. Sutherland said he would be working closely with the TNC Chairman at Ministerial level, Uruguay's Foreign Minister Sergio Enrique Abreu Bonilla. He also paid tribute to his predecessor by referring to the Draft Final Act of the Uruguay Round, which he said was the only available multilaterally acceptable basis for concluding the Round, as "a testimony to Mr. Dunkel's guidance and leadership."

In concluding, Mr. Sutherland welcomed four new Round participants, which had recently acceded to the GATT: the Commonwealth of Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Kingdom of Swaziland. He also proposed, and the TNC agreed, that in accordance with a recent decision by the GATT Council, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) could not continue the participation of the former Yugoslavia in the Uruguay Round and in the TNC.

Many developing-country TNC participants hailed Mr. Sutherland's election and expressed their full support and cooperation. They included Egypt, speaking on behalf of the African Group; Bangladesh, on behalf of the least-developed countries; El Salvador, in the name of the Latin American and Caribbean countries; and Morocco, the coordinator of the developing countries in the GATT. The European Community also pledged its full cooperation in bringing the Round to a successful conclusion.

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