

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee

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UNITED STATES

Statement by Mr. Rufus Yerxa  
Deputy US Trade Representative

If the remainder of this meeting goes as I hope and expect it will, my President will today notify our Congress that my Government intends to sign and enter into the Uruguay Round Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization and the new rules of international trade. This is, indeed, an historic occasion and in the final analysis, great moments in history are defined not only by the power of ideas, but by the leadership of great men and women, people of vision and courage who see the future with clarity. Our Chairman, our Director-General, and many of my valued colleagues in this Room are such people. And the events of the past few weeks prove that many of you recognize how we are all linked together in a common endeavour. I was thinking about my three year-old daughter who was born here in Geneva a month before a less happy Ministerial occasion in the history of the Uruguay Round negotiations and now is old enough to have a favourite song. If this had gone on much longer, she might be part of our negotiating team. She is old enough to have a favourite song and it is one of those simple American songs with the title "It's a small world after all". Now, before my friend and colleague Hugo Paemen comments on the cultural merit of that music, I would simply like to suggest that it perhaps could be the theme song of this successful negotiation because it demonstrates for all of us that despite seven years' of efforts of many forces around the world to destroy this historic undertaking, the forces that draw us together in this globe are stronger than the forces that seek to pull us apart. My Government wants to thank each and every government in the Room for the courage and the vision that you have shown in these negotiations. We have a lot of work cut out for us before all of this results in success in Marrakesh, and we may face further efforts to pull us apart. I would like to close with one story I remember about a famous Washington politician who was retiring after a 35-year career and a reporter asked him, "You must have seen a lot of changes in your time here in Washington", and he said "Yes, I have son, and I have been against every darn one of them". Well, I am glad to say that many in Washington, many of our politicians, many of our leaders, don't see this in that vein and for that reason, we wish you all god speed and Merry Christmas. I would also like to ask my colleague, our Chief Negotiator, who was busy keeping the torch alight while some of us were busy in North America with other events, to say a few words.

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Statement by H.E. Mr. John Schmidt  
Ambassador, Chief US Negotiator

I would like, first of all, from a personal standpoint, to express to you and to all of my colleagues what an enormous personal pleasure and satisfaction it has been for me to work with all of you over these months. As most of you know, I have never before had the experience of being a negotiator in an international forum and I really had not anticipated what an enormous and stimulating personal experience it would be to work together with people from nations throughout the world with all of their diversity, but brought together in a spirit of goodwill and professionalism. Of course, the real significance of tonight lies in much more than the fact that it is for me a great personal experience. It lies in what it is we have accomplished, what it is we are doing here tonight. You can talk about that accomplishment in terms of specific tariff lines or schedules of minimum or current access, or specific technical rules and disciplines and all of that almost infinite detail is the reality, the concrete reality of what it is we have accomplished and what some people have characterized as the most complex negotiation of any kind ever undertaken. I think on a night like tonight, we need also to take a step back and look at the deeper or broader significance of all of that detail. I think what it is we are doing is moving the world in a certain direction, a direction of openness and free exchange and the kind of progress and prosperity which those qualities will produce. It is very rare that the world as a whole comes together and takes collective action as we are doing here tonight. Certainly, there are all kinds of international conferences where people discuss things and debate and pass resolutions. But that is not what we are doing here. What we are doing here tonight is real. Of course, because it is real, the negotiations have been enormously difficult. We have had to deal with the reality of differing interests and ambitions. But having gone through that very difficult negotiating process, we are bringing something real into being by the action that we are taking here tonight. This is a season of the year when in almost all of the cultures and nations that we represent, we express our deepest hopes. It is often difficult to believe in those hopes and to sustain them. I think having gone through a very real and difficult negotiating process, the hope that is here tonight is real and I think it is a real hope of better lives for people throughout the world. I am very proud, personally, and the United States is proud to have been a part of this process. We look forward to bringing the result that we are initiating tonight to its maximum full potential and making it mean to the world what I think we all know it can mean if we work together towards that objective.