MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS THE URUGUAY ROUND

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Trade Negotiations Committee

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ARGENTINA

Statement by H.E. Mr. Juan Archibaldo Lanús Ambassador, Permanent Representative

The Uruguay Round has been a complex international economic negotiation because of the interests involved, the extent of its objectives and the future impact of its results.

No single country has obtained all it sought, but we have all contributed to making clearer and more transparent the rules of the game to be observed in a global economy which is becoming more international as a result of the technological revolution and the needs of a market that is expanding to make sustainable development possible.

The Uruguay Round has arrested dangerous protectionist trends and unilateral action, thereby contributing to the objective of cooperation and multilateral solutions.

Seven years of negotiation have proved that it is developing countries, especially those with emerging economies, which have shown the greatest conviction and the least rhetoric in accepting the challenges and obligations of an integrated global economy that allows all countries, whether industrialized or not, developed or developing, to participate in the benefits of trade.

We do not want any country's creative capacity to be hindered or ignored.

I should like to pay tribute, albeit somewhat late, to the person who made possible the first draft of the Final Act, namely Mr. Arthur Dunkel. His conviction led to the elaboration and approval of the framework which would be the basis of the results we achieved today.

I should also like to express the gratitude of my Government and that of myself to Mr. Peter Sutherland, who with authority, respect towards all delegates, courage and political expertise helped to resolve a complex web of national ambitions, sectoral egoism and misleading dilatoriness in order to allow us to perceive today the reality which was yesterday in danger of becoming a utopia.

You, Mr. Peter Sutherland, are one of the architects of this victory.

I should like to express my appreciation of the political commitment shown by governments and colleagues, above all, those who represent less-privileged countries in a process in which no single participant can claim to be in the right.

I should also like to thank the Government of Morocco for its offer to host the Ministerial Conference in April.

GATT SECRETARIAT

Although the final agreement only partly fulfils the hopes of Argentina, we are fully aware that the best agreement is not the one we imagined but the one that is possible.

The way ahead awaits us. I hope that the climate of understanding and compromise may continue to be the guiding spirit of this new organization.