

MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND

MTN.TNC/MIN(88)/ST/11  
5 December 1988  
Special Distribution

---

Trade Negotiations Committee

Original: English/  
French

Meeting at Ministerial Level  
Montreal (Canada), December 1988

CANADA

Statement by Mr. John Crosbie,  
Minister for International Trade

We have heard statements this morning by Ministers from countries at all levels of development. They have all spoken eloquently and forcefully about their concerns, their priorities and their objectives in the Uruguay Round.

One message has emerged loud and clear.

We all have a common and compelling interest in enhancing and securing trade.

We all have a common and compelling interest in fighting protectionism.

We all have a common and compelling interest in ensuring that the current Round of trade negotiations leads to a more open, stable and secure trading environment.

That is our challenge.

The Uruguay Round is our opportunity.

In fact, it is this common interest and active participation on the part of a very large number of countries that distinguishes the current Round of negotiations from all previous Rounds. This negotiation is being driven as much by the determination and concerns of developing countries as by those of developed countries.

During the next few days in Montreal, we must give the strongest possible signal to the world that we have the determination to use this Round to create a stronger and more open multilateral trading system. This means more growth for all of us.

People around the world will watch for signs.

Canada is prepared to collaborate with all its trading partners to achieve such results.

What is Canada seeking in these negotiations?

Essentially, we have three objectives.

Firstly, we want better access to world markets through the substantial reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers. We are seeking improved and more secure trade for the products of Canada's renewable and non-renewable resource industries at all levels of processing.

Secondly, we want stronger and more predictable trade rules. This includes a more effective and timely dispute-settlement mechanism and greater transparency of national trade policies. This means a stronger GATT with the tools and mandate to play a more active rôle.

Thirdly, we want the GATT to meet the new realities and challenges of the international market place, including the establishment of a framework of rules and principles on services and intellectual property.

We are now at the midway point of the negotiations. We can take some satisfaction from having laid the foundations for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round on time by the end of 1990.

Nowhere is that more important than in agriculture. Three basic considerations govern our position in this sector.

1. We are all in this together. We all know the problems which plague agricultural trade today. We all must contribute to an equitable solution. Concerted action is required to solve the problems in agricultural trade.
2. Problems created over several decades cannot be solved in just a few days, just a few months or even a few years. What is required is a substantial and balanced reduction of trade-distorting subsidies and import barriers.
3. Successful negotiations on agricultural trade will benefit producers and consumers as well as food-exporting and importing countries alike.

We believe that the report of the Chairperson of the Negotiating Group on Agriculture provides Ministers with a reasonable basis on which to focus their work at this meeting.

The Uruguay Round is about creating opportunities for enterprising people in all our countries to seek out and take advantage of world markets.

We cannot guarantee markets, but we can make access to them more open and secure.

We cannot guarantee everybody's standard of living but we can improve their prospects.