

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee

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AUSTRALIA

Statement by H.E. Mr. Donald Kenyon
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

The result of these negotiations is of great satisfaction to all of those countries who have worked so hard for the Uruguay Round negotiations over the past seven years. As United States Representative Rufus Yerxa has just said, the Final Act of the Uruguay Round negotiations represents an agreement of truly historic proportions.

Australia has, from the Punta del Este Declaration, always been a very strong supporter of the totality of the agenda for the Uruguay Round negotiations and we are very pleased with the result, both with the substance and by the fact that the agreement will apply to an unprecedented number of both developed and developing countries.

The package which has been negotiated ushers in a new era in the multilateral trading system, now likely to be administered by a new World Trade Organization. Much important new ground has been broken.

The Uruguay Round will deliver the largest ever package of industrial tariff reductions in any GATT round. The package charts a new direction for agriculture, both with respect to the elimination, after more than forty years of effort, of quantitative restrictions on imports and negotiated reductions in export subsidies.

In relation to the outcome on agriculture, Australia would like to record its appreciation for the difficult political and economic decisions taken by a number of countries in the final days of the negotiations to accept comprehensive tariffication without exceptions. The contribution made by these countries by this decision to the outcome on agriculture and to the Round as a whole is a substantial one.

The Uruguay Round package will also bring textiles back into the GATT system. It will deliver a comprehensive framework of rules on trade in services, together with a body of initial market-access commitments which may not be as extensive as some would have hoped but which will nonetheless produce an outcome on services which is more ambitious than anticipated at the time of the launching of the negotiations in Punta del Este.

The Uruguay Round outcome will also deliver strengthened rules in key areas such as subsidies, dispute settlement and safeguards - all of which lays the foundation for a new, more global and inter-dependent trading system for the first decades of the 21st century.

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On a more personal note, I would like to record how great an honour it has been for Australia to work with the countries of the Cairns Group throughout the Uruguay Round negotiations for a mutually satisfactory outcome on agriculture. I would like to thank all of those within the Cairns Group who have worked so closely and so hard with Australia to realize these objectives, and we look forward to continuing this close relationship in the GATT in the future.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to pay tribute to your successor, Arthur Dunkel, for his work in preparing the outcome to the negotiations and to yourself and the "Friends of the Chair" without whose tireless insistence over the final few weeks we would never have achieved the outcome we now have.