

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

MTN.TNC/40/ST/20
20 January 1994
Special Distribution

(UR-94-0022)

Trade Negotiations Committee

Original: English

JAPAN

Statement by H.E. Mr. Nobutoshi Akao
Ambassador, Head of Delegation and Chief Negotiator

Japan joins others in voicing a strong sense of satisfaction, as we gather here on this historic occasion to conclude the seven-year-long Uruguay Round negotiations. Seven years ago, Japan took an initiative, together with the United States and others, to launch the most challenging and ambitious venture with the earnest desire to strengthen the multilateral trading system and to pursue further the liberalization of world trade.

On behalf of the Japanese Government, first I wish to congratulate you, our Chairman of the TNC, for your determined leadership without which we could have never achieved our goal. I wish to commend the "Friends of the Chair" and members of the GATT Secretariat as well for their dedicated efforts. I also pay a tribute to your predecessor, Mr. Arthur Dunkel.

Japan, on its part, has made an extremely difficult political decision on the question of rice in order to contribute to the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. But rice is not the only issue that Japan has contributed. We have offered 60 per cent tariff reduction of industrial goods, and have fully complied with the agricultural section of the Final Act. We have also made extensive and substantial offers in the services sector. We are pleased to report that we have successfully concluded our market-access negotiations with thirty-one countries, in both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

At this historic moment, however, I must register our deep disappointment over the inability of the two majors to make the tough political decision to enlarge the package, in particular, in the service sector.

The strengthening of the discipline in world trade policy, including the establishment of an effective dispute settlement mechanism, is a major accomplishment of the Uruguay Round. Under the newly created World Trade Organization, Japan strongly wishes that the multilateral trading system will be further strengthened as we head towards the twenty-first century.