

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

MTN.TNC/40/ST/24
21 January 1994
Special Distribution

(UR-94-0026)

Trade Negotiations Committee

Original: English

CZECH REPUBLIC

Statement by Mr. Peter Palecka
Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Representative

In the name of the governments of the Czech Republic and of the Slovak Republic I am pleased to welcome the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. It has been undoubtedly one of the most ambitious and the most important of all the negotiations ever undertaken in the history of mankind.

For countries like ours, which are highly dependent on the predictable international trading environment, the outcome of the Round in both rules and market-access areas is a strong stimulus to continue in our reform policies. Any failure of the multilateral negotiations could have negative impacts on the prospects of both countries.

The former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, as well as its successors, have been constantly and strongly committed to the objectives of the Round. In a very short period of time after becoming GATT contracting parties in April 1993, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, assuming high-quality commitments inherited from Czechoslovakia, have presented their comprehensive offers in all areas thus contributing fully to the final success of the Round.

As a result of our bilateral negotiations, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic have further improved their offers on both goods and services. These improvements resulted in making commitments to liberalize imports of fish and fishery products, in binding a number of non-agricultural lines at zero levels and in conforming to the goals of liberalization in many items subject to other sectoral initiatives. We also made substantive commitments covering a number of services sectors.

In that respect I am glad to inform you, Mr. Chairman, and participants of the Uruguay Round that a few minutes ago the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic decided to put their names on the list of countries removing or harmonizing their tariffs in pharmaceuticals and chemicals under the terms stated in the letter which has already been sent to you, Mr. Chairman.

In concluding, I would like to join all the previous colleagues in expressing our gratitude to you for your inexhaustible energy which helped us so efficiently to finalize successfully this Round. Our thanks also to the "Friends of the Chair", to the Chairmen of various negotiating groups, to the experts of the GATT Secretariat, and to all the trading partners which participated in the Round.