

Also critical is the issue of special and differential treatment for developing countries. This has been so vaguely articulated in previous Rounds that LDCs have largely enjoyed exemption from resulting obligations. Developed countries appear determined to enforce greater adherence to the results of the current negotiations, particularly in the case of relatively advanced Newly Industrialized Countries (NICs) such as Korea.

Ministers responsible for the Uruguay Round met in Vancouver in September 1990 at a meeting of APEC, hosted by Canada. The meeting was aimed at encouraging the fullest possible contribution from the Pacific nations to a successful Uruguay Round outcome and highlighted the importance of a substantive outcome as a central element of improved trade and investment within the region. The Uruguay Round will be discussed by Ministers at the third APEC meeting in Seoul, Korea, November 12-14, 1991.

KOREAN POSITION

Korea has been a relatively active participant in the Round. The Koreans almost certainly view a strengthened multilateral system as fundamental to long-term economic growth and consequently seem prepared to make a number of contributions. Their most sensitive item continues to be the need to protect a relatively inefficient agricultural sector. Key objectives have included improved market access, particularly for industrial products, and improved disciplines over safeguards, anti-dumping and countervailing duties. The Koreans have also emphasized re-integration of textiles and clothing into the GATT, since this comprises one of their largest exports.

CANADIAN POSITION

The Asia-Pacific represents the second largest (after the U.S.A.) and fastest growing regional market for Canada's merchandise exports. In 1981, Asia-Pacific countries purchased 31% of Canada's non-U.S.A. exports; by 1988, this proportion had increased to 47%. Canada's broadest MTN goal with respect to Asia-Pacific is to promote the greater integration of regional economies into the GATT system through the Uruguay Round. This will open new opportunities for Canadian exporters and help to ensure that market opening is done on a non-discriminatory basis, which does not exclude Canadian products and suppliers.