The Minister noted that Canada had taken the lead in achieving this important step forward. "When my predecessor Michael Wilson invited his colleagues from the United States, the EC and Japan, to Toronto on May 14, it resulted in intensive negotiations among ministers and officials that led to the agreement in Tokyo last week."

Mr. Hockin stressed that a strong market-access result, covering both goods and services, is an important part of a large and balanced overall Uruguay Round deal, which would include more equitable rules covering agriculture, improved trade rules and stronger dispute mechanisms, and arrangements for a Multilateral Trade Organization.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office External Affairs and International Trade Canada (613) 995-1874