

MINISTERS CALLED UPON ALL COUNTRIES TO RESIST PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES AND URGED AN EARLY COMMITMENT TO INSTITUTING A TRUCE.

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, MINISTERS DISCUSSED HOW THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE SHOULD PROCEED.

THEY AGREED THAT BASIC PROPOSALS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE TABLED IN GENEVA BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR AND THAT OFFICIALS SHOULD CONTINUE TO WORK ON DEVELOPING PROPOSALS IN A COORDINATED FASHION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THEIR RESPECTIVE MINISTERS, AND WHICH COULD BE SUBMITTED IN GENEVA BY SEPTEMBER.

IN THIS CONTEXT THEY WELCOMED THE INTENTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO TABLE A PROPOSAL FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE JULY MEETING OF THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE.

MINISTERS AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD PROCEED IN GENEVA AT SUCH A PACE THAT, BY THE END OF 1988, AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM TO REFORM AND LIBERALISE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN AGRICULTURE. IN THE INTERIM, MINISTERS URGED THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS FREEZE AND REDUCE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS THAT DISTORT WORLD TRADE, AND THAT THEY SHOULD DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE NEGOTIATING CLIMATE.