

THE TOKYO ROUND) IF THE E.C. HAD DECIDED ON AN EARLIER LAUNCH. POLICY DIVISIONS AMONG MEMBER STATES ABOUT AGRICULTURE AND SOME ASPECTS OF THE SERVICES QUESTION NECESSITATED A CAREFUL, CAUTIOUS AND INEVITABLY RATHER LENGTHY PROCESS OF POLICY FORMULATION. PERHAPS, IN ADDITION, A MORE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE UNDERLIES THE TRANSATLANTIC DIVISION OVER STRATEGY -- THE BASICALLY DIFFERENT WELTANSCHAUNG THAT SEPARATES A CHARY, SCEPTICAL, CONSENSUS - SEEKING EUROPE AND AN IMPATIENT, BULLISH, CAN-DO AMERICA.

THESE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES ARE NOT NEW, OF COURSE. THEIR SIGNIFICANCE, IN A WORLD THAT LACKS AN UNDISPUTED HEGEMON, IS VERY DIFFERENT, HOWEVER, THAN IT WAS IN THE PAST. AND THAT DIFFERENCE IS AMPLIFIED BY THE NATURE OF THE THIRD "BLOC" OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD TRIAD -- JAPAN -- WHOSE MAIN STRATEGY VIS-A-VIS THE MTN IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS WAS TO SUPPORT THE U.S. POSITION WHILE TRYING TO CONTAIN MOUNTING BILATERAL FRICTION WITH BOTH THE U.S. AND, INCREASINGLY FORCEFULLY, THE E.C. -- IN OTHER WORDS, NOT TO GET TOO FAR OUT FRONT. THE LONG PATH TO PUNTA -- AND, TO SOME EXTENT, ALSO ITS OUTCOME -- REFLECTED THE NATURE OF POWER-SHARING AS WELL AS THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF TODAY'S WORLD.