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CANADA PARTICIPATES IN LAUNCH OF URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Tom Hockin, Minister of State (Finance) welcomed on September 20 the successful launch of a new round of comprehensive and ambitious multilateral trade negotiations, decided on by ministers from a wide range of countries at their meetings in Punta del Este, Uruguay last week. Mr. Clark and Mr. Hockin were accompanied at the meetings, which ended on September 20, by provincial ministers, Members of Parliament and private sector representatives as well as federal officials. Canada played an active role in the negotiations leading to the Declaration.

Mr. Clark expressed considerable satisfaction that the meetings resulted in a unanimous commitment to counter protectionist forces and improve market access. Mr. Clark said, "This historic decision will help us fight back protectionism, strengthen the multilateral trading system under the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), and liberalize world trade". Mr. Clark underlined the major role played by a large number of developing countries in the meeting.

Mr. Clark indicated that the negotiations would take up agriculture, resource products, high technology and other exports, as well as new issues of increasing importance in world trade, including services, intellectual property matters and trade related investment measures.

Mr. Hockin, who represented Canada in the agricultural discussions, including in the CAIRNS Group of agricultural exporting countries, expressed the view that a start had been made on developing more effective GATT disciplines to cover agricultural trade. "The beginning of real talks on these matters may make it easier for us to find some short term improvements, while we continue our efforts to find long term answers in the GATT", Mr. Hockin said: I pushed hard for a quick and substantial start to the real negotiations. Our farmers cannot wait for years for solutions."

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