- June 1986, the Honourable Charles Mayer initiated meetings with his counterparts from five major grain exporters for the first time ever, in Whistler, B.C. The five include the United States, the European Economic Community, Australia, Argentina and Canada. The Ministers agreed that agriculture be given comprehensive consideration in the MTN.
- August 1986, Mr. Mayer represented Canada at the first Cairns Group Meeting in Australia.
- September 1986, the Right Honourable Joe Clark and the Honourable Tom Hockin were instrumental in having agriculture included in the current GATT round of multilateral trade negotiations launched in Punta del Este.
- January 1987, the Honourable John Wise pursued Canada's concerns by meeting with his counterparts during a visit to Australia. Mr. Wise has also been actively consulting with domestic farm organizations on this issue.
- February 1987, Mr. Mayer attended a meeting hosted by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Richard Lyng, in San Diego, California to follow up on the Whistler meeting.
- March 1987, Canada submitted principles for agricultural trade reform to OECD Secretary General Paye.
- March 1987, Miss Carney continued to press for early progress in agricultural trade reform at a meeting of Trade Ministers at Taupo, New Zealand. Miss Carney advanced Canada's OECD proposals at this meeting.
- April 1987, Miss Carney placed agriculture on the agenda of the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers meeting in Japan.
- May 1987, Miss Carney and Finance Minister Michael Wilson attended the OECD Ministerial Meeting where considerable progress was achieved on agricultural trade reform. The OECD communique incorporated the essential elements of the Canadian principles put forth by Minister Carney to the OECD and reiterated in New Zealand.

Canadian ministers have been instrumental in obtaining priority attention for agricultural trade on the international agenda. The Cairns Ministerial Meeting plays an important role in developing the momentum which has been growing over the past year.