

preparatory phase of consensus-building among governments under WTO auspices with the prospect of initiating negotiations by 1996 or 1997. Preparations should include exploring whether increasingly complex and time-consuming full-scope negotiating Rounds might be complemented by more continuous and selective negotiations. Canada would want to ensure that the mandate given to the Eminent Persons' Group is balanced, covering not only new issues such as the environment, investment and competition policy, but also outstanding unresolved holdovers where much work is still required (e.g., agriculture, remaining barriers faced by resource-based products, government procurement). In the meantime, we need to build on the analytical work already underway to ensure that we complete the domestic homework needed to establish a more definitive Canadian position on what the new "rules of the game" should look like. We should also identify and seek to collaborate in the WTO context with those countries which will tend to share our views.

- D) Using the GATT/WTO accession process to address our immediate market access objectives with respect to the PRC (as well as Taiwan) and Russia.
- E) Beginning promptly the preparations for possible accessions to the NAFTA. This requires a quietly effective lobbying effort. If Canada is to have a role in setting this agenda, we should move actively and soon. Otherwise, the U.S. may build up a head of steam with a view to meeting the May 1 deadline for the USTR report that will become increasingly more difficult to influence, both in terms of priority countries and with regard to favouring the accession option over U.S. bilateralism.