

must increase our political involvement in the GATT process. I believe therefore that there should be periodic meetings of GATT Contracting Parties at the Ministerial Level.

It is most important that we achieve progress on all fronts and that we put comprehensive negotiating proposals on the table as soon as possible. Other countries outside the OECD, which are not represented at this table, are relying on quick progress in Geneva, and are concerned that growing protectionism and bilateral trade disputes will jeopardize that progress. As well, international business has high hopes for the Uruguay Round. Both the International Chamber of Commerce when it met with Geneva negotiators on April 29 and the OECD's Business and Industry Advisory Committee have made very clear that business wants the standstill commitment to be honoured and wants early results. The expectations raised at Punta del Este are still very alive and so they should be. Now we must negotiate, we must make progress on all fronts and we must achieve real results wherever possible. The Uruguay Round is the most ambitious round of trade negotiations in the history of the GATT. We must also make it the most successful.

We can start by seeking the "Early Harvest" envisaged in the Punta del Este Ministerial declaration. That declaration says "Agreements reached at an early stage may be implemented on a provisional or a definitive basis by agreement prior to the formal conclusion of the negotiations". We can also assign priority to the one area which does not entail concessions by any country, and which, as the International Chamber of Commerce stressed, is in all of our interests: the strengthening of the GATT system.

The GATT cannot simply be an organization which administers a trade agreement; it must become more trade policy oriented and take a real responsibility for managing international trade policy questions.

That requires political direction by Ministers. Unlike other international economic organizations, such as the IMF and the World Bank, the GATT holds ministerial meetings only occasionally.

The GATT secretariat's ability to monitor and analyze the impact of trade policies is extremely limited, compared to other international economic institutions.