

The following statement was delivered December 7, 1990, by John C. Crosbie, Minister for International Trade and head of the Canadian delegation.

Though Canada is very disappointed that this meeting was not able to produce a successful end to the Uruguay Round, we are heartened by the progress achieved on a number of issues and by the fact that the Uruguay Round will continue in Geneva.

I must say, however, that I find it frustrating that we are still at this point after four years of intense negotiations.

What we all need now is calm and reason in our assessment of where we stand and what we will do. We must not allow acrimony or recrimination to make future progress even more difficult.

At the same time, we must be clear about the cause of this current impasse -- it was a lack of political will to deal satisfactorily with agricultural issues. Hopefully, this pause in the talks will prompt all of us to do some soul searching and to stiffen our resolve so that we can get down to business when the talks continue in Geneva.

It is clear that the European Community's position on agriculture made an agreement this week impossible. I hope they will use the next little while to reconsider their position and that others will cease to have too high expectations of what can be achieved.

Canada and other participants in this Round have said from the outset there could be no deal without an agreement on agriculture. We were not bluffing. The failure of the EC to recognize and respond to the fundamental requirements of Canada, the rest of the Cairns Group, the U.S. and many of the developing countries on the agriculture issue made it impossible for the Round to conclude successfully this week.

Canada will participate fully in the continuing negotiations. We are determined to achieve the kind of outcome in Geneva that has eluded us in Brussels.

There was progress in a number of areas such as safeguards, subsidies, countervail and antidumping, textiles and services. Thanks to the proposal put forward by Canada in concert with a number of other countries, financial services is another issue where substantial progress was made in Brussels.