

At the Vancouver meeting, Mr. Crosbie will urge the APEC ministers to intensify their efforts in the GATT negotiations in three key areas:

- obtaining substantial reductions in tariffs and non-tariff barriers, especially for agricultural and processed resource products, textiles and clothing, tropical products, and a range of high-technology items such as telecommunications;
- bringing all economies of the region under stronger and more predictable GATT rules and disciplines, thereby providing more predictable and balanced market access conditions.
- extending the scope of the existing rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to include services, trade-related intellectual property and investment measures.

Mr. Crosbie pointed out that a successful, substantive MTN package will require an institutional framework to oversee and to administer the GATT system in respect of both goods and services. On that basis, he will seek APEC support for approval in principle for the establishment of a world trade organization, when ministers meet in Brussels in December for the concluding session of the Round.

"APEC countries, at our first meeting in Canberra last November, and again when we met in Singapore in July, have recognized the need for substantial reform of the world trading system. Over the past three years, our trade negotiators have made a great deal of progress in clarifying both the obstacles and the solutions to achieving a large result from this Round. The question now is finding the political will to act," Mr. Crosbie said.

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