

We need to look ahead, to seek solutions to long-standing and deep-rooted problems. We need to construct, not to recriminate. All of our countries rely, for their economic progress, on the continuing flow of international trade. We are too interdependent in the multilateral trading system to have any real alternative to a continuing cooperation in GATT, and a continuing dedication to liberal trading policies. Governments are not pleased with what is going on. Neither is the business community. As for the people of our countries -- they want a signal from these meetings. It is up to us to respond.

So, the task of this meeting is not easy, but the task is clear. We know the issues. We are here as Ministers. We must exercise political judgement and commitment as we seek, together, common understanding of our present difficulties. Together we must reach decisions fully aware that the credibility of our work here will be ultimately judged by our actions.

Thank you.