

development of the agenda and to sensitize our trading partners to our interests. An intensive programme of preparatory work has already been engaged in the GATT. This work is, in considerable measure, part of the negotiating process and will affect the scope and nature of the negotiations themselves. It suggests that the negotiations could cover, inter alia, the following elements:

(a) Safeguards

This would involve the development of an international understanding to bring greater discipline to the use of emergency safeguard actions which act to restrict imports. The understanding could address issues such as:

- (i) time limitations of safeguard actions (i.e. sunset clause);
- (ii) "degressive" application (or gradual phase-out) of safeguard actions, possibly related to undertakings on structural adjustment by the protected industries;
- (iii) extension of disciplines to so-called grey area measures such as voluntary export restraints;
- (iv) more rigorous definition of the circumstances under which a safeguard measure could be applied; and
- (v) efforts to ensure that the impact of a safeguard measure on parties not causing injury is eliminated or reduced.

(b) Trade in Agricultural Products:

Taking into account the need for an improved balance of rights and obligations regarding agricultural products, work in this area could aim to:

- (i) develop improved rules on subsidies (export and domestic) affecting trade in agricultural products; and
- (ii) develop improved disciplines on non-tariff import measures such as variable levies, quantitative restrictions and "voluntary" export restraints, with the objective of obtaining improved and more secure access.

(c) Government Procurement:

The opening to international competition of additional government procurement markets is now being examined. This involves markets now closed by practices such as