

One of the ways to achieve progress could be to ask a group of prominent individuals "to provide an urgent, independent, and objective analysis of agricultural subsidies and obstacles to market access, and to report to us on their findings and on the remedies we might consider". I indicated six weeks ago in Edmonton that we were considering establishing such a group. Since then, we have developed our thinking. We would envisage such a group providing their views on the main issues in trade affecting all agricultural commodities, particularly those currently experiencing severe difficulties such as cereals and red meats.

The group could be asked to consider those government policies and programs that impact significantly on production and trade in farm products, particularly those affecting commodity trade in the short to medium term (two to three years). It could be asked to propose specific and practical actions to be undertaken together by governments within their current legislative and program frameworks. Such actions would have to yield short-term results. The group would be intended to complement the longer-term action of the GATT. It is clear that it could not substitute itself for the negotiations. What we have in mind is that the proposals from the group could go some way toward reducing the current intolerable stresses in international trade and reinforcing the confidence of producers in their own futures.

The Canadian government firmly believes that urgent international action is required to move toward a better international trading environment. The international rules must be clear and understood by all. Producers must be assured that their opportunities for growth will depend on their own efforts and initiatives and not on the policies of their national governments. We are confident that, in such an environment, Canadian producers will thrive as they have over the past century. What we are seeking is a better, more rational world where all of us will be able to prosper.