

STRONGER THAN THE MAJORITY DRAFT WHICH CAME OUT OF GENEVA AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PREPARATORY PROCESS -- A MAJORITY WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE THE EC BUT EMBRACED ALL THE MODERATE LDC'S SMALLER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, CANADA, THE U.S. AND JAPAN.

THE ROLE OF THE CAIRNS GROUP, WHICH OPERATED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK IN PUNTA, WAS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE E.C. BY BARGAINING AWAY ITS DELIBERATELY EXTREME DEMANDS AND ENABLE THE E.C. TO ACCEPT THE MAJORITY POSITION. THE FINAL DECLARATION (AGREED JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY, THE LAST DAY) PROVED EQUAL TO OR EVEN SOMEWHAT STRONGER THAN THE MAJORITY POSITION. ONE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE CAIRNS GROUP WAS ITS "NORTH/SOUTH" COMPOSITION -- ESPECIALLY THE INCLUSION OF ARGENTINA, A MEMBER OF THE HARDLINE LDC'S.

ON THE SERVICES ISSUE THE STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WAS THE SO-CALLED G10, THE HARDLINE LDC'S LED BY BRAZIL AND INDIA. HERE, THE ROLE OF THE EC WAS CRUCIAL IN ACHIEVING CONSENSUS THEREBY AT LEAST POTENTIALLY ENHANCING THE POWER OF A RATHER ODDLY ASSORTED GROUP (BRAZIL, INDIA, CUBA, NICARAGUA, EGYPT, PERU, TANZANIA, YUGOSLAVIA, NIGERIA AND ARGENTINA) TOGETHER ACCOUNTING FOR ABOUT 5% OF WORLD TRADE.