

It was not designed to deliver dramatic results.

We knew that we were not about to solve the world's trade problems in a few days and nights.

The decision to extend this phase of the negotiations until April is a rational response to developments over the past week. It preserved the best of what we achieved this week and gives us time for cool re-examination of the problem areas. But most importantly, it prevented a stalemate, which might have jeopardized the not insignificant gains we made here in Montreal.

Under Arthur Dunkel's able direction, we will have the opportunity over the next few months to try to achieve progress in the four problem groups (agriculture, textiles, safeguards, and TRIPs) and thus move toward realizing the full results of this meeting.

Obviously, agriculture is a key problem.

Canada has placed a high priority on long-term reform of agricultural trade. We are disappointed that the 96 GATT member countries could not agree on a negotiating framework in Montreal.

Despite the concerted efforts of Canada and other countries to forge a consensus on the goal of long-term agricultural trade reform, the gap between the European Community and the U.S. was just too great to bridge this week.