

liberalized trade system. Specifically, we should aim to reach agreements and implement early results where possible. In addition to our commitments on agriculture, Canada believes concrete early results and achievements will be possible in such areas as GATT institutional reform -- the functioning of the GATT system and the dispute settlement mechanism -- and on trade in tropical products and trade in services.

Liberalized trade and access to export markets can facilitate developing countries' economic progress. It can also provide the means to integrate them more closely into the international trading system, with its benefits and responsibilities. A case in point is that of the newly-industrializing countries of Asia. Canada welcomes the entry of these significant new players on the international economic scene. Theirs is the type of economic development success story that offers hope and encouragement to developing countries the world over. Canada also strongly supports the Secretary General's move to establish a Council working party which will look carefully at the question of how to encourage these countries to participate more closely in a mutually beneficial process of consultations on world economic issues.

These countries have a valuable and important role to play in the international economic community, not least in helping to reduce international trade imbalances and in providing a market for less developed countries. Certainly it is important that they assume responsibilities and disciplines of the international trading system commensurate with their level of development and stake in the world economy. But it is also important that our dialogue with them be initiated on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit. I firmly believe that the so-called "newly exporting countries"--Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia--should be included in any dialogue with the Asian newly-industrializing countries, both because of their rapidly expanding economies and exports, and because of the growing trend, already discernible, toward a broadening horizontal integration in the region. I intend to pursue the matter in my consultations this July in Bangkok with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

As I have said, our goal as OECD Ministers is to encourage these countries to participate more closely in consultations on world economic issues, and ultimately, to