The government thus had three objectives in the agricultural area: to improve access for farm products; to make that access more secure; and to preserve Canada's agricultural policy instruments. The Agreement reached on October 3 meets all three objectives. Nothing in the Agreement will in any way affect the right of the federal government and the provinces to introduce and maintain programs to protect and stabilize farm incomes. As well, the two governments agreed to a package of trade liberalizing measures for trade in agriculture including:

- the phased elimination of all tariffs over a period of 10 years (but allowing Canada to restore temporarily tariffs on fresh fruits and vegetables for a 20-year period under depressed price conditions in order to give Canada's horticultural industry an opportunity to adjust to more open trading conditions);

- exempting each other from restrictions under their respective meat import laws, thus ensuring free trade in beef and veal. Canadian cattle and beef producers have in the past found their exports blocked as the U.S. triggered its meat import restrictions;

- prohibition of export subsidies on bilateral trade. This marks the first time that any governments have agreed to prohibitions on export subsidies in the agricultural sector and marks an important signal to others around the world;

- an exemption for Canada from any future quantitative import restrictions on products containing 10% or less sweetener and on grains and grain products. The U.S. enjoys a waiver under the GATT to impose restrictions if imports are interfering with U.S. price support programs;

- conditional elimination of Canadian import licenses for wheat, barley and oats and their products. As long as U.S. price support programs maintain prices at the same level as Canadian prices, there will be no restrictions on grain imports. Should U.S. price support programs depress the U.S. export price, Canada can re-impose restrictions;