

as a body above domestic politics, to continue and intensify both its studies of the problem and its efforts to increase public understanding of the insidious dangers of inflation.

There was a full discussion of the Secretary-General's proposals for the creation of a high-level group to assess current problems in international trade, to consider how these problems might be met, and to set out various options for their solution. The Secretary-General's initiative was also aimed at maintaining the high degree of liberalization achieved in international trade and the prevention of backsliding. This initiative received very wide support and Ministers agreed to the creation of the group. I made clear our intention to contribute to the work of the group and our expectation that it will pave the way for further progress in multilateral trade without infringing on the responsibilities and prerogatives of the GATT. This last point was developed by most other speakers and is reflected in the communique.

I would now like to table copies in English and French of the communiqes issued after the NATO and OECD Ministerial Meetings.