

NOT BECOME FRAGMENTED INTO REGIONAL TRADING BLOCKS THAT ERECT TRADE BARRIERS AGAINST OUTSIDERS. I URGE OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES TO AFFIRM AND IMPLEMENT SUCH A COMMITMENT IN RESPECT OF ANY REGIONAL ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING OECD MEMBERS.

I HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES THAT ARE BEFORE US. THEY ARE TIED TO ONE OVERWHELMING CHALLENGE TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM - NAMELY RESISTING PROTECTIONISM, IN ANY FORM. IN THE SHORT TERM, SUCCUMBING TO PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES IS AN ATTRACTIVELY EASY SOLUTION - PARTICULARLY IN DEMOCRACIES - AS THE CONCERNS OF DOMESTIC LOBBY GROUPS ARE SATISFIED. BUT PROTECTIONIST ACTIONS ONLY TEMPORARILY DEAL WITH THE SYMPTOMS AND NOT WITH THE UNDERLYING CAUSES. THEY IMPEDE THE DYNAMIC PROCESS OF ADAPTING TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CHANGE, OF ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT. TO COUNTER PROTECTIONISM, WE MUST PURSUE POLICIES TO PROMOTE GREATER PRODUCTIVITY AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS. SPECIFICALLY, IT IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE THAT WE ACHIEVE SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS IN THE CURRENT ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE GATT.