

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT IS A VERY REAL PLEASURE FOR MY WIFE AND ME TO BE HERE IN WELLINGTON ON SUCH A DELIGHTFUL DAY. I AM TOLD THAT NOT ALL DAYS ARE AS NICE. IN FACT I AM TOLD THAT THERE ARE DAYS HERE THAT ARE NOT UNLIKE SOME THAT WE HAVE IN MY HOMETOWN OF ST. JOHN'S IN NEWFOUNDLAND. IF THAT IS INDEED THE CASE THEN YOU DO HAVE MY SYMPATHIES.

I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES FOR PROVIDING THIS OPPORTUNITY. BOTH HAVE BEEN ACTIVE PROPONENTS FOR ENSURING NEW ZEALANDERS ARE FULLY INFORMED OF WORLD DEVELOPMENTS. I HOPE I CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WORK THIS AFTERNOON.

MY VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND WAS OCCASIONED BY THE INVITATION OF MY GOOD FRIEND, MIKE MOORE, FOR A MEETING OF THE CAIRNS GROUP. FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS TRADE MINISTERS FROM ITS FOURTEEN COUNTRIES MET IN WAITANGI TO DISCUSS OUR STRATEGY FOR RESOLVING THE IMPASSE ON AGRICULTURE WHICH DEVELOPED AT THE MONTREAL MINISTERIAL MEETING LAST DECEMBER HELD AT THE MID-TERM OF THE URUGUAY ROUND OF THE GATT.

NEW ZEALAND AND CANADA HAVE BEEN ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE CAIRNS GROUP SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1986. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT TOGETHER, AND WITH OUR OTHER PARTNERS IN THIS EFFORT, WE HAVE BECOME A FORCE FOR ENSURING THAT AGRICULTURE IS DEALT WITH EFFECTIVELY IN THE URUGUAY ROUND. WE ARE RESOLVED NOT TO ALLOW THE PROBLEM OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE TO BE IGNORED AS IT WAS IN PREVIOUS ROUNDS.