

Non-Tariff Measures (Negotiating Group 2)

Ministers agreed that, in order to ensure effective trade liberalization, results from the negotiations of non-tariff measures should be substantial. The detailed negotiations are to be initiated by June 1989 on the basis of approaches (multilateral, formula, and request/offer) ensuring the widest possible participation and transparency in the process.

Natural Resource-Based Products (Negotiating Group 3)

Ministers agreed that the objectives set in the Punta del Este Declaration for the fullest liberalization, including the possible elimination of barriers on processed and semi-processed resource-based products, will proceed on the basis of negotiating techniques to deal with specific issues and problems in a manner consistent with other related Groups such as tariffs, NTB's, and subsidies/countervail. This Negotiating Group is focussing primarily on fisheries, non-ferrous metals and minerals, and forestry.

Textiles and Clothing (Negotiating Group 4)

In Montreal, the Ministerial discussions focussed on an examination of modalities and timeframe to bring about the eventual integration of trade in the textile and clothing sectors into a reformed GATT, an objective set out in the Punta del Este Ministerial Declaration. Although the textiles issue remains outstanding, there was a large degree of consensus over the importance of dealing with this issue as a central element of the Uruguay Round. It is also fairly clear that the outcome of the negotiations over the future of the current Multifibre Agreement (MFA) will be influenced by the developments in the areas of safeguards and intellectual property.

Tropical Products (Negotiating Group 6)

Agreement was reached at Montreal on a package of tariff concessions in favour of developing country exporters of tropical products covering some \$20 billion in trade by all participant countries. Action to implement the main parts of the tropical products concessions are, however, being withheld until a solution is reached on the four outstanding issues, particularly agriculture. When our own offer is implemented, over 98% of Canada's \$1.2 billion imports of tropical products from developing countries will enter either duty free or at a special preferential rate. It was also agreed at Montreal that tropical