

- There is a stronger dispute settlement system. Exporters and investors from the Asia-Pacific region will be reassured that their interests will be effectively defended in a strong, predictable and enforceable dispute settlement system.
- Finally, there is an accession clause providing for other countries or groups of countries to join the NAFTA. I need say no more about our commitment to open regionalism.

The NAFTA, like the Canada-U.S. FTA on which it is built, will be consistent with the GATT in both policy and law. The underlying principle, of both our regional and our global approach to trade, is that of liberalization. This point of complementarity was well put by Arthur Dunkel two weeks ago in Rio de Janeiro where he stated that "the founders of GATT never thought to place global and regional approaches to trade liberalization in opposition but considered them to be two sides of the same coin."

The NAFTA, like the FTA before it, will be an integral part of the GATT-based multilateral trade system and will be fully consistent with the GATT requirements as set out in Article XXIV. Indeed, many of its provisions are taken directly from the GATT and the Dunkel draft text of last December. It is our intention to have the agreement, once it has been ratified in all three countries, submitted to the GATT promptly.

The NAFTA will lend important impetus to further market openings and more effective trade rules globally in the Uruguay Round. Indeed, I hope that it will provide renewed interest in achieving a major Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) market access, one of the principle negotiating areas still outstanding. Canada has been a leading proponent of the global free trade proposals on the table in Geneva. Clearly, the more trade barriers that are reduced or eliminated on a global basis, the less concern we all should have about preferential trade arrangements.

It brings me back to the importance of completing an ambitious Uruguay Round -- A big Uruguay Round makes good regional policy and good global policy. It will anchor current and future regional trading arrangements on a firm, fair and widely acceptable basis. -- completing the next generation of issues that we can already see coming upon us -- the trade and environment interface, competition and anti-dumping reform, and possibly innovation and investment issues.

It is against this background that I would hope that officials in APEC meet at an early date to develop a comprehensive, practical work plan. This plan should incorporate the anticipated results for the Uruguay Round; look at practical measures to expand trade in the region; and examine further trade-liberalizing