

In Canada's view, the consequences of a breakdown of the multilateral negotiations would be profound and long-lasting. It would signal the unwillingness of the world's major trading powers to come to grips with the key problems affecting international trade and to deliver on commitments made in Punta del Este, Uruguay, four years ago and reconfirmed by heads of government at the Houston Summit in July 1990.

Since the war, successive GATT rounds of trade liberalization have been central to economic prosperity and jobs. The key role of trade is increasingly recognized in the reorientation of Eastern European and many developing countries toward market economies.

"For Canada, as a nation with a high dependence on trade, the stakes are extremely high," the Minister said. "Countries resisting fundamental changes in agriculture have been major beneficiaries of the international trading system. They must be prepared to accept their responsibilities to conclude the Round in all areas, including agriculture."

It is to reinforce this point that Canada's Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds, Charles Mayer, who has accompanied Mr. Crosbie on this trip, will join with other Cairns Group Ministers in making direct representations to Ministers of several European Governments in the coming days.

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