

- The elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade such as the misuse of technical standards to block competing products from entering a country.

- The improvement of GATT dispute-settlement mechanisms so that disputes with our trading partners can be resolved in a more timely and effective manner.

- The liberalization, in a fair and equitable way, of agricultural trade and the elimination of trade-distorting subsidies which have proved to be so costly to Canadian farmers.

When you are negotiating with over 100 countries on such complex and technical issues, you must be patient.

We do not expect dramatic results in Montreal. That is not the purpose of the meeting.

As I already stated, our task is to review progress to date in the negotiations and to give political direction to negotiating teams. It is also an opportunity for Ministers to affirm their commitment to the successful outcome of the multilateral trade negotiations in 1990.

The multilateral trade negotiations under the GATT are crucial to our future ability to export goods and services. They are crucial to our future prosperity.

These negotiations are attempting to grapple, not only with traditional trade problems such as tariffs and non-tariff barriers, but also with new issues such as trade related investment measures, trade in services, trade related intellectual property questions, and the strengthening of the GATT itself.

In many ways, the hard work done in the Canada-U.S. free trade negotiations, for example on investment and trade in services, has already covered some useful ground for these much larger and more complex negotiations under the GATT.

Canadians have a great deal at stake in having a healthy, open and secure international trading system. Our trade with major world markets other than the U.S. is beginning to grow significantly. For example, our trade with Asia-Pacific markets is more than 45 per cent greater in the first half of this year than it was only a year ago.

If we want to continue to increase that trade and especially to diversify the products and services we are exporting, we must have clear trading rules and freer conditions for trade.

Now, my colleague would like to say a few words after which I will be happy to answer your questions.

Thank you.