

Welcome.

- I am in Geneva at a critical stage of the Uruguay Round. With only eight months left before the Brussels Ministerial Meeting, we have reached a watershed in the negotiations.

- There is an enormous amount of work to be done and little time left to accomplish the goals that we set for ourselves in Punta del Este when this Round was launched in 1986. Immediate progress must be made in all aspects of the Round if we are to be successful.

- Canada is committed to achieving a large result in the Round across the entire spectrum of issues under negotiation. A substantial, balanced outcome on all these issues is essential for the success of the Round.

- I have scheduled a series of meetings this week with key participants in the negotiations. I have already met with ambassadors from Latin American countries and will be meeting with those representing participating countries of the newly-founded Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Group.

- I will be meeting with the Director-General of the GATT, Mr. Arthur Dunkel, this evening.

- These meetings will allow me to address issues of particular concern to Canada.

- Points which I intend to emphasize include:

a) The Market Access negotiations remain a key priority for Canada. The pace of the negotiations must be accelerated and existing tariff reduction offers must be expanded and improved if we are to achieve a successful, substantial and balanced result.

b) A successful conclusion, on Agriculture, including elimination of export subsidies, will be necessary to have an overall successful MTN outcome. Canada also wants progress on how GATT Article XI should be clarified.

c) Integration of the Textiles and Clothing sector fully into the GATT is a central task of the Round. We have recently tabled a proposal which recommends a fully non-discriminatory approach to this reintegration.

d) Many of the current Trade Rules disciplines are not adequate to deal with the realities of today's trading environment. Substantial increased disciplines in the areas