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# communiqué

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## MINISTERS WILSON AND MAYER REINFORCE CAIRNS GROUP CALL FOR AGRICULTURAL TRADE REFORM

The Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Michael H. Wilson, and the Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds), the Honourable Charles Mayer, said they fully support the "strong, timely, and important message" sent out from the Cairns Group meeting on agricultural trade reform in Manaus, Brazil, which concluded yesterday. (A full text of the Cairns Group Communiqué is attached.)

Canada, one of the 14 members of the Cairns Group of agricultural trading countries, fully endorses the three key points emerging from the meeting:

- that the main differences over specific ways to achieve agricultural trade reform must be substantially narrowed this summer, for a successful overall result for the Uruguay Round to be achievable by the end of the year;
- that the G-7 Economic Summit in London, July 15-17, must provide a strong message showing the political leadership necessary to make the tough decisions required to create a more fair and open environment for world trade in agricultural products; and
- that the Cairns Group members are prepared to show flexibility in the agriculture negotiations, as well as in the other major areas left to be resolved.

Mr. Mayer, who headed the Canadian delegation, emphasized that the end result would have to be a good and balanced package. This will need to include substantial reduction commitments for agricultural export subsidies, trade barriers and trade-distorting internal support. In addition, agricultural trade must be effectively brought under strengthened General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) rules and disciplines.