

service industries will prove increasingly costly and inappropriate. This point is especially important for developing countries since the new technology is labour-energy- and materials-saving. Developing countries, which in previous Rounds have not played a major role, have suffered to some extent as a consequence. Hence it is vital that they participate actively in the present negotiation. Otherwise they are likely to suffer again.

Finally, it must not be assumed that the contentiousness of the services issue is confined to developing countries. Services are subject everywhere to varying degrees of government regulation. They impinge directly on sensitive issues of national sovereignty and differences of opinion about the role of government. Such issues and differences will have to be taken into account in negotiating multilateral disciplines. In the end, more effective international cooperation is the only way in which constraints on national action imposed by interdependence can be compensated.

Now, after this rather lengthy detour on the rocky road to Punta I want to conclude with some thoughts on a few core issues of the Round, those relating to strengthening the GATT system.