

So we are working internationally to break the cycle of subsidy.

In the last month, John Wise has been to Brussels and to Washington, urging his counterparts to cool their conflict. Charlie Mayer called together ministers from the U.S.A., Argentina, Australia, and the European Community, the world's five major grain exporters.

The spring ministerial meeting of the OECD ordered an objective study of the price the world is paying for protection in agriculture. That study will be important, but we are not sure we can wait for the OECD to present its findings.

Just before we left for the Tokyo Economic Summit, Prime Minister Mulroney convened a meeting of major representatives of Canadian agriculture. He then raised the question of agricultural subsidy at the Summit, and argued to other leaders the inconsistency of summit countries preaching freer trade on one hand, and practicing protectionism in agriculture. To our surprise, the debate on agriculture took hold in the Summit. Every member nation recognizes that the spiral of subsidy must be stopped and that we will have to act together to stop it.

That was the first time in the history of Economic Summits that agriculture was discussed in such detail. We intend to continue the initiative the Prime Minister took at Tokyo. I will be leading the Canadian Delegation to the Ministerial Meeting on GATT in September in Uruguay, and agriculture will be the top item on the Canadian agenda for the New Round. We are ensuring that there is plenty of support from other countries, developed and developing, for that priority.

But I have no illusions that the GATT negotiations will be easy. The problems may be obvious, but the political will to implement solutions must be stiffened. Among the means of ensuring the problem is recognized at the highest levels, I am exploring the idea of establishing a small group of experts, from around the world, to provide an urgent, independent and objective analysis of agricultural subsidies and obstacles to market access, and to report to us on their findings, and on the remedies we might consider.