

Japan, we can expect a prolongation of the spirited debate on the emotional issue of market access for foreign rice.

But of all the barriers that stand between the signature of the Uruguay Round in Marrakech and the actual implementation of the World Trade Organization, the biggest are to be found in Washington. As the world's largest economy, and as the linchpin of the Uruguay Round Agreement, how the U.S. government handles its implementing legislation will determine both the timing and content of other countries' legislation.

In Canada, and no doubt in many other countries, we watch with concern as one interest group in the United States after another tries to make the Congressional legislation hostage to its own agenda. In doing so, interest groups are threatening some of the very achievements that were realized only after years of difficulty in this historic negotiation.

For example, we are concerned about the implementing legislation that is emerging in Washington with respect to changes to U.S. trade remedy law. In our many representations to U.S. officials, we have pointed out how the changes being considered will move U.S. trade law in trade-restrictive rather than trade-liberalizing directions, completely contrary to the intent of the Uruguay Round agreements.

We are also concerned about Section 301. The dispute settlement understanding reached in the Uruguay Round is a milestone in our joint efforts to create a stronger, rules-based trading system. The United States, we feel, should not make changes to its 301 authority which call into question its commitment to give primacy to the World Trade Organization for resolving disputes in sectors covered by the Uruguay Round agreements.

For the same broad reason, we are opposed to proposals for the use of trade sanctions to enforce labour standards. We do believe that the International Labour Organization, working with the OECD [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development], should try to develop a consensus on a core set of labour standards.

To force this issue now, however, would rekindle the acrimonious debate that threatened the agreement that was signed in Marrakech last spring. It could hobble the new World Trade Organization as it takes its first tentative steps in the New Year.

At the same time, we hope that the U.S. Administration will be granted the fast track authority necessary for the process of trade liberalization to continue.

Not only Canada and the United States, but all countries will benefit from future trade agreements, be they expansion of the