

FEB 3 2004

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MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

On Wednesday, October 31, 2001, a Roundtable Discussion on "Global Governance, Parliamentarians and the World Trade Organization" was held in Room 216, Wellington Building, Ottawa. Held in advance of the Ministerial Meeting of the WTO, November 9 to 13, Qatar, the meeting was sponsored by World Federalists of Canada (WFC) and the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD). The meeting was chaired by Bill Graham. NOTE: Parliamentarians in Doha Qatar will meet November 11 (3 to 6 pm, Sheraton Hotel) on the basis of a joint invitation from the European Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Two presentations began the meeting, one by former Member of Parliament (MP) David Walker and another by World Federalists of Canada Executive Director Fergus Watt.

Mr. Walker reviewed his paper, "International Trade Agreements and The Role of Canadian Parliamentarians" funded this year by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (see Appendix B).

Mr. Walker's paper includes analysis of the current international context on the World Trade Organization (WTO) and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); citizen participation in Seattle and Quebec City; and the "new world of international trade agreements." One of the most important issues relates to transparency and public participation. Parliamentarians can make important contributions.

Some of the pragmatic suggestions brought forward include:

- Parliamentarians can consult with government and with Canadians prior to the negotiation of trade agreements. An example is the 1999 Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (SCFAIT) report, "Canada and the Future of the World Trade Organization: Advancing a Millennium Agenda in the Public Interest."
- Parliamentary consultations are also important once agreements are negotiated, i.e. prior to implementation into domestic law. Greater government reporting to Parliament would make the process more transparent and accountable.
- Another focus for Parliamentarians is the House and Senate committees (e.g. Agriculture and Agri-Food) that end up considering trade arrangements in the course of other business.
- Internationally, Canada should work with WTO members to improve parliamentary oversight.
- Parliamentarians have also become more involved with international trade issues through the various parliamentary associations and friendship groups that involve both Senators and Members of the House of Commons.
- As a framework for better executive/parliamentarian relations, consideration could be

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