

The development of a negotiating framework on trade related intellectual property issues was also a key to unblocking the Uruguay Round of global trade negotiations. Negotiators will now try to agree on trade rules to govern areas such as patents, copyrights and trademarks, and on appropriate enforcement of these rules. An important aspect will be developing a system for multilateral settlement of trade disputes in these areas. As both an importer and exporter of intellectual property, Canada has been able to contribute to a balanced agreement acceptable to developed and developing countries.

In Geneva, countries have reached agreement in four major areas: agriculture, intellectual property, textiles and clothing, and safeguards. This agreement will now permit the implementation of the improvements to the GATT trading system provisionally agreed at the Montreal Ministerial Meeting.

Mr. Crosbie said, "I am extremely pleased we are now in a position to move forward with negotiations. For Canada, as host, the discussions last December in Montreal were often somewhat frustrating. Nevertheless, we see now that the real groundwork for this successful resolution in Geneva was established in Montreal. We are, therefore, delighted to have been able to play a key role in contributing to this positive outcome."

This agreement covers dispute settlement, where procedures were achieved to streamline the establishment of panels and the adoption of panel reports. The improvements agreed upon also call for a more rapid dispute settlement process. In addition, a trade policy review mechanism is to be established to provide a greater role for the GATT in the examination of the trade policies and practices of member countries.

Minister Crosbie noted: "Since the Montreal Meeting, I have met with U.S. Trade Representative, Carla Hills, U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Clayton Yeuter, EC Commissioner, Frans Andriessen, Japanese Ministers and Cairns Group Ministers. In addition, I have had discussions with Arthur Dunkel, Director General of GATT, to discuss the constructive resolution of the process begun in Montreal. I must say I am extremely pleased and impressed with his management of the issues and his contribution to the successful conclusion of the mid-term review, as well as with his close cooperation with Canadian negotiators this week."