

Officials of several of those countries met in Thailand last July. That was followed, in late August, by a meeting at Cairns in Australia, where Charlie Mayer represented Canada. The common approach agreed at Cairns was carried into the GATT negotiations in Uruguay. Our ability to work together that week in Uruguay led to an historic breakthrough on the approach to trade in agriculture.

But getting agriculture into the GATT is only the first important step. The GATT process moves slowly, and neither farmers, nor their governments, can wait much longer. We intend to push the process forward.

Yesterday, at lunch at 24 Sussex Drive, the Prime Minister, the President of the United States and their senior Ministers, discussed preparations for the next Economic Summit. Two items dominated the agenda. One, naturally, was South Africa. The other was agriculture, where the Prime Minister sought and secured President Reagan's agreement to press the issue again at the Venice Economic Summit. That is one high level arena, in which we will continue to put pressure on the industrial powers who are fuelling the trade war.

Next month, the Cairns group will meet again. This time in Canada. My colleague, Trade Minister Pat Carney, has invited Ministers from those thirteen countries to meet to maintain our common pressure on the GATT system and, in particular, to move agriculture to a "fast track in the GATT". The Cairns approach, in fact, is in the best tradition of effective Canadian foreign policy. We have more influence than power and are always more effective when we can help organize several countries to pursue in tandem goals that are important to us. We will continue an active role of leadership within the Cairns group.

Finally, we are trying to get informal international agreement on agriculture trade practices during the period of negotiation of new GATT rules. So, we have written all members of the OECD - including almost all significant agricultural producers - suggesting certain principles that should guide us all until new rules are agreed. We have proposed the following principles: