

Today I want to discuss briefly two aspects of that growing identity between Canada's domestic interests and our international activity. The first concerns agriculture, which was once the most local of industries, but whose problems now can only be solved by international actions. The second is the deliberate assertion of the unique character of Canada in our international activities.

First, agriculture. Tomorrow, in Ottawa, the Prime Minister will open a special meeting of fourteen countries which consider themselves to be "fair traders in agriculture." Those countries include Argentina, Hungary, Thailand, New Zealand, and other nations who often differ in the crops we produce and the ideologies we profess, but who are common victims of the trade war in agriculture between the United States and the European Economic Community.

The group is called the Cairns Group, because its first meeting was held in Cairns, Australia. The purpose then was to ensure that agriculture became a major focus of the new round of multilateral trade negotiations, which were launched last September in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

We were successful in reaching that first goal. For the first time, the new round of GATT negotiations deals directly with trade in agriculture.

Last week, in Paris, at the OECD, more progress was made. My colleagues, Pat Carney and Michael Wilson, were instrumental in securing an agreement on several principles to guide trade in agriculture. Even more important, there was an agreement to establish a "truce" in the agricultural trade war - an agreement by Europe and the United States not to take new protectionist measures during the GATT discussions.

The meeting tomorrow will seek to broaden the number of nations who will endorse those principles and respect that truce. It will also seek agreement on ways to make faster progress in the GATT negotiations.

There are two reasons the meeting is in Canada. The first is that we are the only country that is a member of the Cairns Group and the Economic Summit, of the seven largest industrialized countries. We are, therefore, a link between countries who are engaged in the trade war in agriculture, and countries who are the victims of that war. Prime Minister Mulroney will be able to convey to other Summit leaders some of the concerns raised by the Cairns Group.