

Canada is fully committed to resisting protectionist pressures and to dismantling trade-restricting and trade-distorting measures. Over the next year OECD member countries should pursue efforts to identify trade liberalization possibilities.

Improving conditions of access to OECD markets for developing countries, particularly those most in need, should remain a high priority. The Canadian Government recently decided to extend its Generalized System of Preferences for a further 10-year period, and to improve its application.

Members of this organization recognized last year that a new round of multilateral trade negotiations (MTN) under the GATT would be of utmost importance to a strengthening of the multilateral trading system. Since that time we have all declared ourselves in favour of launching a new MTN round. Indeed only a clear commitment by OECD countries on a new round will provide the focus required to resist protectionist pressures, in line with commitments made at previous ministerial meetings.

Canada considers that an agreement among OECD member countries on a date for the formal launching of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations would contribute to the confidence of businessmen in the ability of governments to manage the trading system. It would also give impetus to the important preparatory work which needs to be done internationally as well as domestically. The task of rejuvenating the trading system is now urgent. We support the formal launching of a new round in early 1986.

OECD countries must be sensitive to the need to develop an international consensus of support for a new MTN round, which would include the developing countries. Canada has already begun a series of meetings with some developing nations to discuss the new MTN, during which we received clear indications of support and interest for a new round provided we can show understanding to their sensitivities.