

YOU HAVE SOME REAL PROBLEMS. AND SO DO WE. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT A BETTER WAY TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS. AT A MINIMUM WE MUST GIVE IT OUR BEST SHOT. IF THE STATUS QUO WERE WORKING SMOOTHLY, NEITHER SIDE WOULD NEED A CHANGE. IT IS NOT WORKING. THAT IS WHY WE ARE TRYING TO NEGOTIATE SOMETHING BETTER.

LET ME LEAVE NO DOUBT. MY GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT A NEW REGIME ON TRADE REMEDY LAWS MUST BE PART OF THE AGREEMENT.

A NEW REGIME MUST REFLECT THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WOULD EXIST IN BILATERAL TRADE AND THUS BE CONSONANT WITH OTHER COMMITMENTS IN THE AGREEMENT. IT MUST PROVIDE FOR JOINT AGREEMENT ON RULES TO DEFINE SUBSIDIZATION AND OTHER UNFAIR PRACTICES WHICH MAY DISTORT TRADE; AND JOINT DETERMINATION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES BREACHES OF THE RULES AND APPROPRIATE REMEDIES WHERE SUCH BREACHES OCCUR.

KEY TO A NEW SET OF RULES WILL BE MEANINGFUL COMMITMENTS AND DISCIPLINES ON SUBSIDY PRACTICES AND STRONG, QUICK AND BINDING DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES.

OVER THE PAST YEAR OUR NEGOTIATORS HAVE MET ABOUT ONCE A MONTH. THESE SESSIONS HAVE COVERED THE FULL RANGE OF ISSUES OF INTEREST TO BOTH SIDES INCLUDING GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, TRADE REMEDY LAWS, AGRICULTURE, TARIFFS AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS, SERVICES, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT AND IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS. AS I SAID EARLIER, NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO ENGAGE MORE FULLY AND TO STEP UP THE PACE. WE HAVE TO DO THIS IF WE ARE TO MEET THE DEADLINE ENFORCED BY THE US FAST TRACK PROCEDURES.