

item of unfinished business held over from the Tokyo Round by bringing the full range of trade restrictive measures with a safeguards effect within agreed international rules under the GATT. The development of a safeguards agreement which is fair and equitable and places effective disciplines on the major trading nations as well as on smaller countries, could make an important contribution to resisting protectionism. We want to ensure that safeguards are subject to stringent discipline so as not to erode access to markets while at the same time allowing governments to retain the ability to act quickly against imports to protect the interests of Canadian producers when necessary.

-- The GATT Dispute Settlement System provides a means, particularly important for smaller countries, to ensure that access to markets is not eroded through failure of other signatories to respect the agreed rules. Canada has, therefore, been taking the lead in preparatory discussions leading to decisions by Ministers in November. What we are seeking is a political commitment, both to respect the agreed rules and to make the GATT dispute settlement system work more effectively. In this regard, we welcome recent indications that work is underway within the US administration on proposed changes to the DISC in response to recent GATT findings. We will be watching closely and looking for expeditious action by the Congress in the next session. Nothing could enhance the credibility of the GATT more than a genuine move by the US authorities to respond constructively to the GATT ruling on DISC.

-- As regards developing countries, we attach considerable importance to the achievement of results at the GATT Ministerial Meeting which respond in a balanced way to the needs of all GATT members, both developed and developing. We believe developing countries need to be better integrated into the world trading system. We hope the Ministerial Meeting can strengthen confidence among developing countries towards the GATT system and its capacity to take account of and address the specific problems of developing countries. We can, in turn, expect from them, over time, a greater commitment towards that system and a willingness to assume greater obligations, commensurate with the level of economic development achieved and the benefits derived from it.

-- Trade in Agriculture Products: Export expansion for many of our agricultural products is critical. However, the agricultural policies of a number of countries are increasingly distorting international markets and traditional trading patterns. What we are seeking in November is agreement that it is urgent to address these problems and to initiate work aimed at developing