

CANADA AND ASEAN HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO IDENTIFY COMMON INTERESTS THAT WE SHOULD PURSUE TOGETHER IN THE NEXT ROUND. THEY INCLUDE IMPROVED DISCIPLINES ON THE USE OF COUNTERVAIL AND EMERGENCY SAFEGUARD MEASURES, THE STRENGTHENING OF THE GATT DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES, AND TRADE IN AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND OTHER RESOURCE PRODUCTS. THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN PARTICULAR MUST BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE MTN WILL BE SERIOUSLY FLAWED UNLESS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IS MADE ON BRINGING AGRICULTURAL TRADE INTO THE GATT FOLD, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO ACHIEVING GREATER DISCIPLINE ON THE USE OF AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES. AT TOKYO PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY RAISED DIRECTLY THE QUESTION OF AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDY. THAT IS AN ACUTE CONCERN FOR CANADIAN GRAIN GROWERS AS IT IS FOR PRODUCERS OF RICE IN THAILAND. IN BOTH CASES THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR PRODUCERS IS NO MATCH FOR THE SUBSIDIES OF MORE POWERFUL SYSTEMS. WHEN THERE IS A TRADE WAR IN AGRICULTURE, EVERYONE LOSES. THE TOKYO SUMMIT AGREED TO SUPPORT AN OECD STUDY OF AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDY. HOWEVER, CANADA FEARS THAT STUDY WILL TAKE TOO LONG. WE NEED, URGENTLY, A SMALL TEAM OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS TO DEFINE THAT STANDARD. SOME ASEAN NATIONS MAY WANT TO SUPPORT SUCH AN URGENT EXPERTS' STUDY. IN THE SAME SPIRIT, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN CONSIDERING PARTICIPATION IN THAILAND'S INITIATIVE TO CONVENE A MEETING OF "NON-SUBSIDIZED" AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS.