

Mr. Crosbie underlined the urgent need for countries to demonstrate the political will to bring about real reforms to agricultural trade, particularly in regard to export subsidies. "We recognize that phasing out export subsidies raises difficult problems for many participants. Finding solutions will not be easy, but it must be done."

Given the central role of agriculture in the Round as a whole, the Cairns Group underlined the urgency of moving the agricultural negotiations forward quickly in the short time remaining.

The Cairns Group meeting urged the leaders of Western Economic Summit countries, of which Canada is the only Cairns member, to place high priority on achieving a successful MTN outcome and to give top priority to substantial agricultural trade reform.

"This fully accords with Canada's position," said Mr. Crosbie, "and the Prime Minister will be pressing hard for an outcome at the Houston Summit which will move the negotiations to a successful conclusion."

The two Ministers emphasized that they will continue to consult closely with all segments of the agri-food industry and the provinces during this final phase of the negotiations.

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