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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CONDEMNS
ROMANIAN TREATMENT OF U.N. OFFICIAL DUMITRU MAZILU

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today condemned the behaviour of the Romanian authorities in the case of Mr. Dumitru Mazilu, a Special Rapporteur of the United Nations for human rights and youth.

"This is only one in a long list of instances where Romania has flagrantly disregarded its international human rights obligations," stated Mr. Clark.

On November 17, officials of the Embassies in Bucharest of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada and the Netherlands attempted to visit the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human Rights and Youth, Mr. Dumitru Mazilu. Since preparation of his report, which is sharply critical of the Romanian government's human rights practices, Mr. Mazilu has been under virtual house arrest. The Romanian government intervened to prevent the proposed visit to him by the four officers of Western embassies.

"This obstruction of diplomatic contact with a Romanian citizen and United Nations official is a violation of internationally accepted standards of human rights and Romania's CSCE obligations," said Mr. Clark. "The four concerned governments deplore in the strongest terms this unwarranted interference in the work of their embassies in Bucharest. They will continue to support Mr. Mazilu and others who are being deprived of their fundamental human rights by the Romanian government."

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada



news release

Date

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MINISTERS' COMMENT ON AGREEMENT ON CAIRNS GROUP GATT POSITION ON AGRICULTURE

OTTAWA, Nov. 23, 1989 -- Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Don Mazankowski and International Trade Minister John Crosbie today provided additional comments on the Cairns Group position agreed to recently at Chiang-Mai, Thailand, as a basis to further the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) on agriculture.

Mr. Crosbie, at the conclusion of the Chiang-Mai meeting, noted that the Cairns Group position meets Canada's key objectives for achieving substantial agricultural trade liberalization and effective trade reform.

Mr. Crosbie said, "It is Canada's position, and one which is central to the Cairns Group position, that effective rules applying equally to all countries, and enforced within multilaterally agreed procedures, would provide a solid basis for the expansion of world agricultural trade."

He endorsed the Cairns Group's call for the elimination of export subsidies and for strengthening the disciplines on countervailing duties to enhance predictability and stability in international trade.

Mr. Crosbie noted that the Cairns text proposal to classify government subsidies into three different categories builds on an earlier Canadian proposal in the MTN on subsidies and countervailing duty issues.

Mr. Mazankowski noted that with about 50 per cent of Canadian farmers' revenue coming from exports, Canadian agriculture would clearly benefit from improved and more secure access to foreign markets and reductions in trade distorting support, as proposed by the Cairns Group.

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Mr. Mazankowski noted that all parts of the Canadian agricultural sector, both those which are export dependent and those which are domestically oriented, would benefit from a system of fairer, clearer, and strengthened GATT rules which treat all countries equally and provide fair competitive conditions between countries.

The ministers also commented on how the proposed agricultural trade reform would be consistent with Canada's capacity to maintain domestic supply management systems.

"The present GATT rules, under Article XI, permit import restrictions in support of effective domestic production control programs," Mr. Mazankowski said. The federal government is committed to retaining the border controls necessary to ensure that our supply management programs can function effectively.

On the proposal of converting non-tariff measures into tariff equivalents, Mr. Crosbie made it clear to the Cairns Group members that, in Canada's view, this would not apply to import measures maintained in conformity with GATT Article XI.

Mr. Crosbie said that, as part of the agreed objective to improve the GATT rules, Canadian trade negotiators will be pursuing the clarification and strengthening of Article XI.

The Ministers added: "Canada's participation in the Cairns Group strengthens our voice in achieving common goals, and furthers Canada's influence on the final outcome of the GATT negotiations."

"With the circulation of the Cairns Group proposal," they said, "it is now up to the European Community and Japan to also table their comprehensive reform proposals."

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