

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR BEESLEY TO
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE - APRIL 15, 1986

Mr. Chairman,

As members of the Preparatory Committee are aware, Canada has offered Montréal as a site for the proposed MTN, and has also put forth a proposal for a shared Canada/Uruguay joint venture for the meeting in Montréal under the Uruguayan chairmanship. We have made clear, from the outset, that our motivation in putting forth our proposal had been to give strong Canadian support for the launching of the MTN. We wish to demonstrate the symbolism of growing interdependence reflected in Canada's Atlantic-Pacific, bilingual and multicultural character. Moreover, in a world dominated by the power of the media, we consider as important, to provide a site which would ensure that, through the media, peoples in many countries would be made aware of the importance of the MTN. By this means, we would not only demonstrate Canada's support for the multilateral trading system and the interdependence on which it is founded, but help build support in North America for GATT and against continuing protectionist measures.

Like the representative of the European Communities who has just spoken, my good friend and colleague Paul Tran, we are aware of the wide-spread support for meeting in developing countries as a clear demonstration of the deep involvement of developing countries in the MTN, the engagement of their interest in that process and the desirability of signaling to the world that this is not a MTN for the rich countries, but as a common effort by developed and developing countries alike, directed to achieving liberalization of trade and strengthening of the multilateral trading system. In these circumstances, Mr. Chairman, while I am not authorized to withdraw Montréal's candidacy for the MTN -- I repeat, Mr. Chairman, I am not authorized to withdraw Montreal -- I am prepared to join in a consensus for Punta del Este as a site for the MTN Ministerial Conference. Indeed, I would join Ambassador Trãn in urging all delegations to accept such a consensus, including those who strongly support Montréal, particularly those who spoke up publicly in our support, to whom we express our appreciation.

May I also take this opportunity to express my appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for the manner in which you have guided us in our deliberations in this matter.

Needless to say that if the need should arise, after the MTN has been launched, for a ministerial meeting during the MTN negotiations, Canada would stand behind the offer of Montréal to host such a meeting.

(April 15, 1986)