



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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SENATOR DOLE SAYS MIN AGREEMENT WILL BE CLOSELY SCRUTINIZED BY U.S. CONGRESS

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND — Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today issued the following statement regarding the Multilateral Trade Negotiations:

"The Multilateral Trade Negotiations that were concluded here in Geneva last week are a landmark in trade-negotiating history. Never before have the trading partners of the world undertaken such an ambitious project in an international economic environment of turmoil and growing protectionism. I compliment the members of the various negotiating teams as well as the members of the GATT Secretariat on their perseverance and perspective in completing arrangements that may give greater meaning and some revitalization to the GATT rules and the concept of free, nondiscriminating trade.

"The focus of this monumental exercise now shifts to the capitals of the participants for their final approval. Obviously, the perspective now will become more inward-looking in order to ascertain not only what the agreements do for each signatory, but also what the agreements do to them. For the United States, approval of the agreements means legislative changes and sovereign commitments that are unprecedented in my nation's history. Because our concessions and undertakings are so far-reaching, we will be closely scrutinizing the agreements to determine whether there are substantially equivalent benefits for U.S. commerce that will result from the agreements. For example, the subsidies code clearly sanctions the use of subsidies to "meet" competition—or to be competitive. It, in effect, may legitimize such practices as those fostered under the Community's Common Agricultural Policy. For the United States Congress to approve such an agreement will require a major policy decision which in many respects will be weighted by the tangible benefits we will receive by approving the agreement.

"If the agreements are approved, their ultimate success or failure will depend on the commitment of the signatories to abide by their spirit and intent. The language used in the agreements is vague -- for obvious negotiating purposes. However, the thrust of each code, in my opinion, is very clear: discriminatory, non-transparent, and otherwise disruptive trade policies and practices must be removed. The agreements must be implemented and adhered to in such a way that the trend of protectionism and mercantilism is reversed. To be satisfied with the agreements because they restrict the further growth of protectionism is not enough. All that accomplishes is the maintenance of the status quo in the international trade regime, which for my country and its \$31 billion annual trade deficit is completely unacceptable. The agreements, if approved, must serve as the engine by which we move toward a better system of reciprocity and free trade that can accommodate all of our economic systems.