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## REASON versus EMOTION Requirements for a Successful WTO Round

Thursday, 2 December 1999, Seattle  
Sheraton Hotel

Convened for the Cairns Group Farm Leaders in conjunction by  
the Centre for International Economics, Canberra  
and the Cordell Hull Institute, Washington, DC

- 8.00 – 8.30 Registration and coffee
- 8.30 – 8.45 *Introduction* — **LYALL HOWARD**, Director, Secretariat of Cairns Group Farm Leaders, Canberra
- Welcome* — Chairman for first session **ERNEST MICEK**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Cargill Inc., Minneapolis

### MAINTAINING MOMENTUM OF TRADE LIBERALISATION

- 8.45 – 9.45 First Session  
**The Leadership and Institutional Challenge in an Integrating World Economy**

Since the late 1960s political thought, leadership and institutional development have not kept pace with the integration of the world economy. Leaders in Western countries have failed to promote greater public understanding of the need to adjust to changes in patterns of demand, advances in technology and shifts in comparative advantage — let alone the benefits of free trade. So now they are at a loss about how to cope with the demands of environmental groups, labour unions and other sectional interests.

*Keynote Speaker* — **GUIDO DI TELLA**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina; previously Minister of Defense; former Argentine Ambassador to the United States; earlier Professor of Economic Growth, National University of Buenos Aires

*Discussant* — **JAGDISH BHAGWATI**, Arthur Lehmann Professor of Economics, Columbia University, New York; former Economic Adviser to the Director-General of the GATT; author of *A Stream of Windows: Unsettling Reflections on Trade, Immigration and Democracy* (1998), among other publications

9.45 – 10.45 Second Session

### Moving Towards an Open World Economy: The Next Phase

Agriculture aside, in developed countries border protection is being reduced to low levels while non-tariff distortions of international competition within borders are being subjected to WTO disciplines. As markets have become increasingly integrated, vast numbers of people have had their standards of living lifted. Yet there are fears about the growing trend of globalisation. So how does the world move on to the next phase of economic integration — opening agricultural markets, tackling anticompetitive regulations in the services sector and extending the WTO system to investment and competition laws?

*Chairman* — **ALEJANDRO DELFINO**, Director, Sociedad Rural Argentina, Buenos Aires

*Speaker* — **ROBERT E LITAN**, Vice President and Director of Economic Studies, Brookings Institution, Washington, DC; previously Deputy Assistant Attorney-General, Antitrust Division, US Department of Justice; co-author of *Globaphobia: Confronting Fears about Open Trade* (1998), among other publications

*Discussant* — **JEAN FRANÇOIS BOITTIN**, Minister, Economic and Commercial, Embassy of France, Washington, DC

10.45 – 11.00 Refreshments

11.00 – 12.00 Third Session

### Right and Wrong Ways to Address Labour Standards and Environmental Concerns

As developed countries reduce their instruments of protection from foreign competition to low levels (except for agriculture), they seem to be searching for new ways to protect their industries from the competition of low-wage countries — they are demanding labour and environmental standards in trade agreements. But there are better ways of dealing with labour abuses and environmental concerns.

*Chairman* — **ALISTAIR POLSON**, President, Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Wellington

*Speaker* — **VICTORIA CURZON PRICE**, Professor of Economics and former Director, Institut Européen, University of Geneva

*Discussant* — **DEAN KLECKNER**, President, American Farm Bureau Federation, Washington, DC

## LIBERALISATION OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE

12.00 – 1.00 Fourth Session

### Myths and Realities of Assisting Agriculture

Why should farmers be the only section of society in industrialised countries that enjoy public assistance through subsidies and/or protection in the face of foreign competition? How should we address the different arguments, often old arguments in new guises, that are being deployed to justify the protection of agriculture in advanced economies?

*Chairman* — **JAPIE GROBLER**, President, South African Agricultural Union, Pretoria

*Speaker* — **BRIAN CHAMBERLIN**, Chairman and Managing Director, Euroa Farms Ltd, Pukekohe, New Zealand; former President, Federated Farmers of New Zealand; previously NZ Special Agricultural Trade Envoy to the GATT; author of *Farming and Subsidies: Debunking the Myths* (1996)

*Discussant* — **PEDRO DE CAMARGO NETO**, past President and Council Member, Sociedade Rural Brasileira, Brasilia

1.15 – 2.15 Lunch with Guests of Honour

Mark Vaile, MP, Chairman of the Cairns Group and Minister for Trade, Australia, and other Ministers from Cairns Group Countries will be guests of honour for lunch and available for questions from delegates and the media

2.30 – 3.30 Fifth Session

### Interests of Developing Countries in Liberalising Trade in Agricultural Products

In developed and developing countries there are different arguments — economic, political and diplomatic — for liberalising agricultural trade. What is being done in the European Union, Japan and Korea to prepare for the resumption of negotiations on agriculture next year?

*Chairman* — **RAUL MONTEMAYOR**, Business Manager, Philippines Federation of Free Farmers Cooperatives, Manila

*Speaker* — **ROBERT L THOMPSON**, Director, Rural Development, World Bank, Washington, DC; former President, Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, Morrilton, Arkansas; previously a US Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

*Discussant* — **GRAHAM BLIGHT**, former President of International Federation of Agricultural Producers (1994 – 98), Canberra

*Discussant* — **BRETT PARRIS**, Policy and Campaign Officer, World Vision, Canberra

3.30 – 4.00 Refreshments

4.00 – 5.00 Sixth Session  
**Removing the Hidden Taxes on Exports**

Trade policy has been analysed extensively over the past 300 years. Yet the basic principles are still not widely understood. One example is that protection against imports amounts to a tax on exports — a case of the Law of Unintended Consequences. Various studies over the past decade have analysed the impact of removing these large unintended export taxes that countries impose on themselves. This paper assesses in quantitative terms the economywide costs of protection and the potential benefits to trade and incomes, asset prices and stockmarkets of getting rid of those hidden unintended taxes.

*Chairman* — **ROBERTO SYMONDS**, President, Asociacion Rural del Uruguay, Montevideo

*Speaker* — **ANDREW STOECKEL**, Executive Director, Centre for International Economics, Canberra; previously Director, Australian Bureau of Agricultural Economics; coeditor of *Macroeconomic Consequences of Farm Support Policies* (1989), among other publications

*Discussant* — **MERLINDA INGCO**, Principal Task Manager, Project on Agriculture and the WTO 2000 Negotiations, World Bank, Washington, DC

5.00 – 6.00 Seventh Session  
**Prospective Shape of a Comprehensive Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations**

After the Uruguay Round negotiations, a general consensus began to emerge on further strengthening and extending the WTO system, which is setting out to meet the interests of developing economies, agricultural exporting countries and post-industrial societies. But in the United States the bipartisan approach to trade policy broke down and the Administration has resisted the efforts of others to maintain the momentum of trade liberalisation and reform. So what are the requirements for a successful comprehensive WTO round to be launched 1999 — or in 2001?

*Chairman* — **IAN DONGES**, Chairman, National Farmers' Federation of Australia, Canberra

*Speaker* — **HUGH CORBET**, President, Cordell Hull Institute, Washington, DC; previously Director of the Trade Policy Program, Sigur Centre for Asian Studies, George Washington University; earlier Director, Trade Policy Research Centre, London, and Managing Editor, *The World Economy*

*Open panel discussion*

6.00 Drinks — Wines of the Cairns Group countries in the Sheraton Ballroom reception area

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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