STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, MR. RUBENS RICUPERO,
AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TRADE POLICY REVIEWS OF
CANADA, HONG KONG, JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND

I wish to thank you for your patience and endurance in sitting through with us during this week of very intensive work. I believe it is not exaggerated to state that the TPRM has faced its most severe test and has overcome it successfully. When the mechanism was devised, nobody had foreseen that it would have to be implemented under such adverse circumstances.

Despite all the difficulties related to the intensification of the Uruguay Round negotiations, to which we might add the very inconvenient but unavoidable timetable (the coincidence with the start of the vacations), the exhausting programming of four reviews in a row, practically a full time job for all of us who participated in this exercise - despite all that, I trust that in the course of the present week we were able to make real progress in the implementation of the mechanism.

Little by little the TPRM is approaching its original objective of providing us with the opportunity for a serious scrutiny of trade policies and practices of all contracting parties. We had a real and lively debate in some occasions, and the press coverage is becoming more attentive to what we are doing.

I am convinced that all those facts point to the truth of the definition of the TPRM as a collective evaluation and assessment. In effect, the mechanism will always depend on the degree of your commitment to it, it will become what we want it to become.

My renewed thanks go to the Secretariat whose dedication and efficiency cannot be exaggerated. They have worked under severe pressure and very difficult circumstances. And I would like also to remind you of the contributions made by the several discussants we had, starting with Ambassador Kartadjoemena, Mr. Witt, Ambassador Hawes, Mr. Stancanelli, and finally Ambassador Rossier and Mr. Rosselli.