The theme of this conference is national sovereignty—the authority of a nation over the activities within its territory. That theme takes on new meaning as services and goods cross borders with ever-increasing frequency. International trade agreements play an important role in addressing the problems created when the benefits of technological innovation clash with sovereignty objectives.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) must adapt. The primary objective of the Uruguay Round (UR) was to broaden the scope of the GATT to cover new areas such as services, intellectual property and investment. The UR also improved coverage of agriculture and strengthened the GATT as an institution. Our panelists will address these results of the Round.

In the international trade arena, the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations and the coming into effect of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will establish new systems of rules and procedures governing the economic interrelationship among states. The conclusion of these major new agreements represents a distinct move toward a rules-based world trading system, in which the rules can be effectively enforced by a strong dispute-settlement mechanism, and a move away from an evolutionary, political system, in which the relative power of the states concerned often determines outcome.

The fact that the Uruguay Round was concluded at all is a tribute to the political will of the 116 state participants to accomplish something fundamentally good for the world trading system, while at the same time taking on an incredibly broad range of new obligations. Let there be no doubt—the scope of the UR package is extremely broad. The major achievement of this Round, in my view, is the significant number of important new rules-based agreements. In the goods area, there are significant new agreements in the previously intractable areas of agriculture and textiles, as well as important new disciplines concerning subsidies, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, trade-related investment measures and rules of origin. In the so-called new areas, there is an important new agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights and, for the first time, a General Agreement on Trade in Services, which includes specific annexes for particular sectors. Although the results in some areas were